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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

MARCH, 1960 - No. 156

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American Peony Society

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Sec. 2. That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony; to improve the standard of excellence of the flower; to improve the methods of its cultivation and method of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held examinations, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor, or in any other manner.

MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development, are eligible to membership.

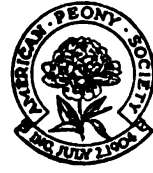
The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send a check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Peony Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members, \$5.00 for one year.

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly. Back numbers when available, will be charged at prices which will be furnished by the Editor. Current year back numbers will be fifty cents each to members.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies." Those who desire to register a new variety, and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names, should apply to George W. Peyton, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

MARCH 1960 — NO. 156

President's Message

March 2 and snow everywhere with more promised for today and over the week end. This should make fine spring flowers. The ground does not seem to be frozen under all this snow, so it should sink into the ground and not run off. Kansas has had far more snow this winter than is normal and the average temperature has been below normal most of the time.

While we were thinking about Spring, Peonies, Hibiscus, Daffodils, flower shows, and one thing and another, about the middle of January a very interesting letter came from Mr. A. P. Murray of Davenport, Washington. Mr. Murray has grown peonies and other flowers for many years and his letter really stirred up my interest.

Here is his letter in part, "There seems to be a general misunderstanding of the situation arising from wilted flowers. So many people have the erroneous idea that to refresh flowers they should be plunged into fresh, cold water, perhaps adding ice. A few hundred years ago some dumb kluck said 'You know how fresh cold water refreshes you. Flowers are refreshed in the same manner'. His followers are still doing this.

"After seeing that the ends of the stems are open, cutting off a

short piece, if necessary, the blooms should be placed in HOT water and left there. The next day the water should be changed, always adding HOT water. Heat expands and cold contracts, so that when placed in cold water the stem pores contract and shut off the supply that should reach the blooms. This is especially true of peonies, roses and other large blooms, but cold water should be kept away from all cut flowers, if one wants them to last."

The same day that I received the above letter from Mr. Murray I received the February issue of McCall's Magazine. In this was an article dealing with cut flowers and the same idea of hot water was set forth. This article advocated 110 degrees. It also said that the flower heads should be protected to a certain degree from the heat.

Mr. Murray also says, "I have tested the water several times and found the temperature running from 120° up to 125°. All one has to do is to take two similar blooms, using hot water for one and cold water for the other. Try it."

So now, after many thousands of dozen of peony blooms, along comes this method that I should have tried long ago. Believe me, I am going to get a thermometer made

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for this purpose and will watch with interest for the results.

Most peony growers' paths should lead to Van Wert, Ohio, and should get them there on June 10, 1960. With their long experience with their peony festival, we should see a fine show. We will be looking for all our old friends and meet some new ones. As Van Wert is not far from Mansfield, Ohio, that should make a nice side trip for our members.

Another thing that adds interest to a trip to the annual show is the little visits with the growers who live between your home and the convention city. With just a little extra driving, you can very often see many of the gardens and fields that, heretofore, you have only read about.

Plant a new variety of some kind of flower in 1960, but more especially a new peony. Help make this a blooming good world.

MYRON D. BIGGER

DEPT OF REGISTRATION

The following varieties (cultivars) whose names have been approved by the Nomenclature Committee, are presented for registration by the originators or owners.

By **Col J. C. Nicholls**, Ithaca, New York, originator, and **Gilbert H. Wild and Son**, Sarcoxie, Missouri, owners and distributors.

HAZEL LYONS (Nicholls-Wild and Son, 1958). D. L. DP. Seedling No. N-1184. Parentage not given. Large loosely built dark rose pink. Medium height. Late. Petals deeply cut and silvered at the edges. Globular type that attracts much attention. Magnificent plant for the garden.

PEPPERMINT. (Nicholls-Wild & Son-1958). D. LM. Light pink. Seedling No. N-140. No parentage

given. Its flat blooms open light pink and fade to white. Prominent red markings on some of the petals give it a striped effect like peppermint candy. Stamens show.

SWEET REFRAIN. (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957). D. M. Light blush pink. Seedling No. N-1003. No parentage given. Large soft appearing blush pink with occasional flecks of carmine in the center of the petals. The flowers have the appearance of a softly formed rose and remain blush until they fall. Midseason bloomer. Stems strong and stiff. Foliage dark green.

W. W. BLACK. (Nicholls-Wild & Son, 1957). D. LM. Fuchsia pink. Seedling No. N-924. The beautiful fuchsia pink flowers show no red markings and open slightly flat, but when fully open, are globular in form. The petals are slightly ruffled and edged lightly with silver. Both stem and foliage are good.

NOTE: In the Department of Registration in the December Bulletin 1956, No. 143, the description of Sweet Refrain was published under the name W. W. Black and no description of W. W. Black was published.

By **Inter-State Nurseries**, Hamburg, Iowa, owner, and **Hans P. Sass**, originator:

HENRY SASS. (Sass-Inter-State Nurseries, 1949.) D. L. W. Seedling No. A-25. Parentage not known. Pure white, full double, tall, strong stems, large bloom, opening just after midseason. Sure and dependable. One of the few good pure whites. Blooms well formed, never coarse, though large.

We hope to publish in the June issue a full account of how the plants were forced for the Indianapolis show.

PEONY PERSONS

Laurence D. Baker



Mr. Baker was born on June 6, 1894, in Northern Indiana, quite near both the Ohio and Michigan borders. After graduating from the Kendallville High School, he entered Indiana University and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1918. From that time to 1943 he was associated with the public schools in Gas City, Remington and his home town of Kendallville as teacher and administrator.

In 1945 he was elected a member of the General Assembly of his native state and served for fourteen years in that body. He was a member of the Budget Committee from 1948 until he retired in 1958, serving as its Chairman from 1952 to 1958. He also served as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee from 1952 to

1956. Since these are probably the two most important committees in any assembly, it shows in what great esteem he was held by his colleagues.

He has also been associated with the administration of his alma mater, Indiana University, in the planning and allotment of funds during the last ten years.

He married Miss Frances E. Johnston of Remington, Indiana, just before he left there to make his home again in Kendallville. She was also a graduate of Indiana University, having received her A. B. in 1926.

They have two children, David H. Baker, (B.S. Ind. Uni. 1950), now associated with his father in the Peony business and Mrs. Carolyn Baker Moses (A. B. I. U. 1957).

Mr. Baker is president of J. R.

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Baker and Sons Co. of Kendallville and owner and operator of the Baker Peony Farms.

He has just added 120 acres to his holding in Kendallville.

He is a member of the Rotary Club, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and is a Methodist.

Mr. Baker has been a member of the American Peony Society for many years. He tells us that he hopes to take an active part in the coming show at Van Wert this June

The writer well remembers Mr. Baker's valuable help in locating his temporary place of abode in Lansing, in 1958 which had not been noted and could not be remembered at the time. After driving up and down many streets, it was finally located and all was well again.

One of the pleasures of our trip to the Show in Cleveland in 1951, was our short stop at Mr. Baker's home with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moots, as we were on our way to Chicago. There we had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Baker, who is a most charming hostess, and of being personally conducted through the modern peony plant in Kendallville, by Mr. Baker himself.

We shall let Mr. Baker tell his story in the letter which follows. We shall look forward to renewing our acquaintance personally at Van Wert.

It was with much pleasure that I read the article on your peony pilgrimage, and only regret that you did not include Kendallville on your trip. I am sorry, too, that the rush of our work at peony time has kept me from participating, as I formerly did, in the shows and activities of the Society. I always enjoy, though, reading about them.

I have often thought what an important part the peony has

played in my life. I was a young superintendent of schools at Remington, Indiana, in 1922. I suppose that the only interest I had ever had in peonies was when I had helped my mother gather some blooms on Memorial Day at Kendallville, my home. One evening, after school I happened to drop in at the hardware store of my good friend, Walter L. Gumm. At work at the desk was his secretary, Grace Ott, for whom he had named a red peony, who was writing out peony orders. I had seen Mr. Gumm's beautiful peony gardens surrounding his lovely house, for I roomed at the home of the banker, Fern L. Lough, who lived just across the road at the edge of town. I had seen the throngs of visitors, and Mrs. Lough had told me that Mr. Gumm had named one of his beautiful new pink seedlings for her, and a gorgeous white one for her little four year old daughter, Margaret. Mr. Gumm at that time was just beginning to attract attention nationally as a hybridizer with Lillian Gumm, Onahama, Vera and others.

Picking up his fall catalogue that afternoon I told Miss Ott to send my mother a collection of a dozen varieties of her choice. The roots were shipped and the next June my mother was delighted with the gorgeous blooms on the young plants. They had also attracted the neighbors, many of whom had never seen any varieties other than Queen Victoria, *Officinalis Rubra Plena* or possibly *Edulis Superba*.

The next fall when I was again back in Remington, I went into the store and told Walter that I had a few orders for him from some of my mother's neighbors. Mr. Gumm, a very keen business man, must have smelled a potential customer for right then began an excellent

talk on peonies, the first of many delightful visits with him as I gradually became infected with a virus of peony enthusiasm. He finally delivered the punch line saying, "Why don't you grow some over at Kendallville, for there will be many others besides the neighbors who will be interested." It was a timely suggestion for I had only recently acquired a city lot back home beside my father's factory. I poured over the Gumm catalogue and almost memorized the descriptions, but it wasn't until November that I placed my order, which was planted just before Thanksgiving. The amount came to \$491.50. How well I remember the amount, for I lay awake several nights thinking how reckless I had been, for to a young school man with college debts that was a lot of money at the going rate of pay for educators at that time.

The lot was a combination of fill dirt and cinders, as unlikely a spot as could have been selected. But came next June practically all bloomed. By the second year we had a beautiful display, and when they were three years old, they claimed such admiration that the peony was named the city's flower. By this time I had become an addict and spent every spare hour with the peonies studying their varied characteristics. Of course I had been back to Walter Gumm every year to add to my collection, and to my amazement I was showered with orders which he filled for me on a commission basis.

I believe it was in 1926 that the National Show was held in Ft. Wayne, just twenty-five miles south of Kendallville. My plants were now four years old, and I took a few samples to the show which I proudly entered in competition. It was there that I got

to know Franklin B. Mead, who had had a part in bringing the exhibition to Ft. Wayne. He was not only a fine gentleman, but his knowledge and judgment of peony qualities were widely recognized. He was particularly taken with a Japanese bloom that I exhibited, Tamate Boku, and called attention to it to his house guest, Mrs. I. Preston Rice of Grand Rapids, who was to become my patron saint in the peony business. Through her interest and advice as to new varieties, my garden attracted the enthusiastic attention of her garden club members, and I found to my surprise that I was in demand for information and talks on peonies beyond my community. I put to use all that I had learned from Walter Gumm, Franklin Mead, and Harry Little, who by this time was proving himself to be a top notch grower in the town of Goodland, seven miles from Remington.

Of course this unexpected reception of my little venture and the commercial possibilities now prompted me to seek bigger quarters than the city lot. No one could have given me more encouragement than my parents, and since my father was in failing health, I resigned from Remington and came to Kendallville to accept a principalship in the local schools. But not until I had received the consent of my Remington girl, Frances Johnston, to come with me as my wife. I often have wondered had she known all that the peony work has imposed upon her, whether she would have thought twice before accepting, for whatever success we have made with our gardens has been due in a large measure to her help.

We bought thirty acres on U. S. 6 a mile west of Kendallville, and went all out for the peony.

later adding irises and hardy chrysanthemums. Besides the acres of peonies we landscaped one acre as a display garden and later built our home there. When the depression came and our root sales dropped off, we found ourselves with a large stock of plants that were bringing no return, so we started to ship cut flowers to the New York and Detroit markets. However, due to our latitude, we often missed the Memorial Day trade. So in 1939 we planted twenty-five acres of cut flower varieties two miles west of Bloomington, Indiana, which is about two hundred miles south of Kendallville. Again we were enthusiastically received as soon as the community, and especially Indiana University, got acquainted with our gardens. In 1954 we went still farther south to Crandall, Indiana, just fifteen miles north of Louisville, Ky. where we have twenty more acres devoted to cut flower varieties such as Reine Hortense, Richard Carvel, Felix Crousse and Festiva Maxima.

Because of our scattered farms and the cut flower problems we have been unable to attend or exhibit at the National Shows in recent years. I think one of the biggest moments with the peony was when we exhibited a large number of entries at the Century of Progress in Chicago in 1933. We were fortunate in receiving many awards, and the press asked me to present my prize-winning twenty blooms of Solange to Amelia Earhart Putnam who was a visitor to the Horticulture Building. In 1936 we went all out with a show at the Great Lakes Exposition in Cleveland, where a gorgeous bloom of Walter Faxon brought us top honors. My last participation was in 1938 at Lansing, Michigan. I remember that show for two rea-

sons. One was the unbelievable size of Harry Little's show flowers which easily crowded me into second place in the Class 1 exhibit of 100 different double varieties. And the other was my having the opportunity of serving as chauffeur for George Peyton who was without a car there.

Starting in 1944 I had the privilege of representing my county in the Indiana General Assembly for fourteen years, and in addition by appointment under four different governors as a member and Chairman of the State Budget Committee which manages the finances of Indiana. Of all the pleasures associated with my term of public service, I believe the most appreciated honor that I received was when in the closing days of my last term, the legislature, at the suggestion of the members of the press, tipped its hat in farewell by changing the state flower of Indiana from the zinnia to the peony.

And so you may know why I said in the beginning that my chance visit to Walter Gumm's hardware store had such a great effect on my life. The peony has not only introduced me to countless numbers of flower loving friends, but it has greatly enriched my life. The Gumm gardens gradually disappeared following his and Mrs. Gumm's death, and the beautiful area has been subdivided into town lots. Fortunately Mr. Russell Taylor has preserved many of the beautiful Gumm seedlings. The same fate befell the Little gardens at Goodland, so I feel most happy that our son, David, and our daughter, Carolyn, share my love of the peony and plan to carry on with us in the venture that has brought many rewards other than financial returns.

Laurence D. Baker

EXHIBITION PEONIES

By Marvin C. Karrels

In my discussion of Exhibition Peonies in this article I will deal with but one aspect of a peony plant — the flower. I will disregard all other characteristics. Whether they have bad stems, are hard openers, poor growers, have weak plants or shy bloomers will be completely disregarded. Only one thing counts — they must produce a flower of extraordinary beauty. Exhibition peonies are unique in this respect. Can they win the nod of the judges on a show table is all that matters. However I don't want to be misleading. Exhibition Peonies are not necessarily deficient in the virtues and qualities that go to make up an all-around good peony. As an example—Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt is a fine exhibition peony and also a good all around variety. In fact a peony plant, in order to produce that big massive beauty, must have a powerhouse plant underneath it.

When I speak of Exhibition Peonies I mean those peony varieties that have the inherent ability to produce a flower of sufficient beauty to win the blue ribbons on a show table. This definition covers a lot of ground or should I say a lot of peonies. The records of our National shows would then indicate that many varieties are exhibition varieties. I want to be more selective than this. Show records are sometimes misleading because blooming seasons and show dates are often not compatible and other conditions produce show table winners that I do not always consider as good exhibition peonies. For example — several years ago in one of our National shows Marietta Sisson won as best flower in the show. It

happened to be in the best condition of all candidates under consideration. Marietta Sisson is a good peony in many respects but I do not consider it an exhibition peony.

Now the question arises just what constitutes an exhibition peony? In order to recognize an exhibition peony it is necessary that we have a preconceived idea of what the points of appraisal of beauty in an exhibition peony bloom are. The following interpretations and points of appraisal are my own, but I think will, in the main, agree with other opinions also. Before going into any analysis, one rule takes precedence over all others — good condition. That means no spotting, no wilting, it must neither be passed its prime nor its development still too much in the bud stage. We cannot predict its future or recall its past. This rule is sometimes relaxed because of a number of reasons such as bad climatic conditions at cutting time, too late or too early show dates for the cutting season, etc. the end result being too many peonies not in good condition. Relaxation of this rule is usually done by prejudging agreement among the judges. I think it occurs but rarely in our National Shows.

Now to get on with my concept of what constitutes exhibition quality or beauty in show table peonies. I shall begin with the full doubles. At the top of my points of appraisal I place — Perfection of Form. To me this is by far the most important fact to consider, especially so in the full doubles. To me the acme or ultimate of this perfection of form is best per-

sonified by the true rose type wherein the petals are of uniform length symmetrically arranged with the edges recurved, holding a fine rose bud center. There will be variations of this but always presenting symmetry of pattern. To me this form of the double peony represents the pinnacle of perfection and a perfect specimen of it is unbeatable for best flower in the show award. I am of the school who feel that only in the full doubles has nature reached its ultimate goal of fulfillment — a finished flower. However though I feel that a perfect specimen of the rose form of the double peony is the most beautiful I would not hesitate to place above it, in show competition, a perfect example of say a bomb (before it shows any sign of breaking up) for example Frankie Curtis, Snow Mountain or Mons. Jules Elie, providing that the rose form is not a perfect specimen. The same holds true for the other forms of the double peony such as informal—Kelways Glorious, or the crown form—Blush Queen, Florence Nicholls. The determining factor is perfection of form. I do not mean to infer here that only the full rose type should be placed on exhibition. The A.P.S. recognizes the bomb and crown or conical types as subdivisions of the doubles, and I would not hesitate to show them provided they are in good condition and of good form. That means the bomb must be firm, fully incurved with no sign of a break down. There should be no sign of abortive petals in the collar. The guards should be flaring with no relaxation or drooping. In the crown or conical type weaknesses usually show up in the collar. There must be no separation here. The crown or cone should be built up uniformi-

ly. To win with either of these types they must be in their prime at time of judging. There are several other factors to consider in determining what constitutes an exhibition peony. Probably the next most important is — Size. Size is impressive and as exhibition peonies are shown to impress, the importance of size is self evident. However, size in itself is meaningless if it is attained at the sacrifice of good form. A large perfectly formed peony should always win over a smaller peony unless the smaller peony has better form.

Another factor that has some bearing upon what constitutes an exhibition peony is — Color. Color is an elusive factor, often dependent upon personal prejudices. However, I think I am safe in saying that color as found in Mrs. Livingston Farrand, Alice Harding, Solange, Geo. W. Peyton, Florence Nicholls in the albiflora's is good color or the pink and lemon glow we often find in the near whites is also fine color quality and of course the fine red we find in the hybrids such as Carina, Red Red Rose, Red Charm, etc. or exotic pinks such as Laura Magnuson, Lovely Rose, Hope, etc. I don't think I would want to pin myself down as to what is the best of all. It is often said that the finest color to be found in the albifloras is Mrs. Livingston Farrand or that the finest red to be found is the color of Carina. I would prefer to describe good color by enumerating detractions from good color such as pronounced magenta tones in the pinks and reds or the muddy dark tones in the reds or the washed out appearance in some of the near whites. I also dislike insipid pale lilac tints. This factor of color applies to all the various types of peonies. Before leaving this matter of color

you might say what about the whites which technically have no color at all?. A pure white is just that, no blemishes, no blotches, just clean white. There are not many, but I think Miss America and Isani Giduí are good examples. Nearly all whites have a tint of some kind none the less beautiful for it, however.

There is another factor that some consider should be taken into account. It is fragrance. While I consider this a highly desired attribute of a peony, I don't think it should bear too much weight in an exhibition flower. It might be considered as a factor to say tip the scales in favor of the fragrant peony if all other factors are even between two candidates. The degrees and quality of fragrance vary considerably and often two judges do not smell the same degree or quality of this fragrance.

There are a few other factors, which I have heard some judges talk about, that I feel are somewhat on the border of intangibles. They are class, charm, coarseness refinement. Of these four, coarseness and refinement are capable of description by words. Class and Charm are probably something you have to feel. It probably is necessary that you be an aesthete to experience this sensation. I think that all peony lovers are aesthetic but let's not clutter up the rules with a lot of intangibles. Here is a try at refinement — a delicacy of petal formation, a combination of good color and fine form. Coarseness — ungainly petal formation, a thickness of petal formation. This matter of refinement and coarseness takes some careful discernment and considerable experience with peony flowers to recognize.

Now of course, peony exhibitions are not confined to full

doubles. All our shows provide classes for the singles, Japs, semi-doubles and the hybrids. Although my own choice and preference as the most beautiful of all our peony types are the full doubles I would not think of entering a peony show without some of each of these other types. In fact I would not have a peony garden of only full doubles. There are those who think any one of these other types is superior in beauty. I have no quarrel with those who think so and would stand mutely by and listen to one who tried to make out a case for his favorite type. I love all our peony types.

Now to get on with what I think constitutes exhibition quality in the singles, Japs, semi-doubles and hybrids.

In the singles the same points of appraisal 1. Perfection of form, 2. Size, 3. Color apply as well and in the same sequence. My own concept of good form in a single is this: The guards should be large and well rounded with a partially cupped form, of uniform length. The cupped form must not be too rigid or too pronounced so that it gives the appearance of a tulip, rather the guards should be flaring with the edges incurved. It should be open to show the beauty of its face. A relaxation of any one of the guard petals causing it to droop is a detraction from good form. I prefer a small center cushion of stamens and anthers. This however is not a must, just so long as the cushion is rigid and crisp. Once the anthers begin to dehisce and mess up the surrounding guards with pollen and the stamens begin to break down, good form has been jeopardized.

In the Japs I look for much the same characteristics as in the singles. A flaring form of the guards, a crisp and rigid center cushion

not too much cupped but still a slightly incurved form of guards. In the Japs the center cushion is of greater importance. One of the most serious faults is "feathering" or tufting of the center cushion. This will vary from just a tuft or two to a great many. It will vary from bloom to bloom on a plant and it will vary from year to year depending upon the growing season. Some varieties of Japs never feather. Now unless every bloom on a plant feathers every year the variety should not be ruled out as an exhibition flower. Just as long as you can cut some "featherless" blooms. The center cushion will also vary from thread-like stamens to thickened petalodes.

I prefer the thread-like stamens, but I think it is mostly a matter of personal preference and should not have much bearing on its exhibition quality. I prefer to see the center cushion rigid. However some varieties will have a great profusion of staminodes giving a rather touseled appearance. If this is natural for the variety and no break down has taken place I do not think it has ruled out good form. The center cushion will also vary in color with shades of yellow predominating. Some varieties will have self-colored staminodes edged with gold or pink. I feel this contrasting color edging adds to the color value, but should not bear too much weight in the judging.

Another type for which we usually provide separate classes in our shows is the semi-double. There are those who feel that amongst this group we find some of our most beautiful and charming peonies. They are a controversial type however because of the great variation in the bloom. Some varieties have a full center of

stamens, and in others the stamens are intermixed amongst the petals, sometimes plainly visible and other times almost completely hidden. This variation is found on the same plant from bloom to bloom and also from year to year. The class rule is that to be considered a semi-double the stamens must be plainly visible. Therefore an A. J. Perry or an Elizabeth Huntington will be found entered one year amongst the semi-doubles and the next year in the full doubles. I have even found them entered in both classes the same year in the same show and not much can be done about it because in one bloom the stamens are plainly visible and in the other they are completely hidden. There are some varieties that are constant and true to the type. As examples, Rare China, Minnie Shaylor and Silvia Saunders. It would be most difficult to set up a set of points of appraisal for each variant in the type so it is probably best and sufficient to say that a combination of the points of appraisal as set forth above would cover it.

Up to now I have tried to convey to you my concept of what points of appraisal to look for in an exhibition peony bloom in our various peony types. Before leaving and concluding the topic of Exhibition Peonies I think it most appropriate that I mention those varieties that in my experience, both as an exhibitor and an observer of more than 20 national peony shows are the supreme exhibitionists.

When Le Cygne is right it is almost unbeatable and still the champ in my book. However it is getting a little more crowded near the top now. Alesia has the inherent beauty and quality to beat it. A new comer—Ann Cousins — has such sheer perfection of form that

when "right" will fight a draw with it almost any given show day. Mothers Choice — also of the new crop of challengers has the latent ability to deliver a knockout punch to the champ. Hansina Brand, a perennial challenger, wrested the crown innumerable times. Frances Mains, just up from the prelims, packs a wallop in both form and refinement. Nick Shaylor has met the champ and come out the winner by a split decision on several occasions. There is a strong boy up Minneapolis way, name of Paul Bunyan, who if managed properly, could be a sensation. From that same stable in Minneapolis come Ramona Lins and Dolorodell, two polished and finished performers who can give a good account of themselves any-time they are on display. George J. Nicholls is a dark horse that is capable of producing an upset if the weather isn't too warm. Elsa Sass is an old Pro who fights off the young contenders with more than ordinary success. In fact this one has been playing the role of a trial horse and any ambitious youngster that can beat it, is ready for the big time. For sheer color and a crowd pleaser who can beat Mrs. Livingston Farrand?. Solange has color and finesse but is a little small for the heavy-weight division. Blanche King remains pre-eminent in its color class. From down Topeka-way comes a Midwestern Champ, Kansas. It's a seasoned veteran now and still hard to beat for form. What reds can give this one the competition it needs? Here are some highly touted challengers: Jean Cooperman, Valencia, Noel, Irwin Altman, King Midas Trumpeter and of course the old veteran Philippe Rivoire when it comes in with some weight (size). I have a letter from a highly partisan fan

in Minneapolis who maintains Bonanza can knock off Kansas any time it can get it into the same ring. That little melee I would like to see myself. The other color classes are also getting crowded with high stepping challengers, any one of which can end up in that coveted spot — the Court of Honor. For instance how would you like to see a show table filled with these top-notch whites in prime condition and in the perfection of form, all are capable of: Le Cygne, Mother's Choice, Ann Cousins, Elsa Sass, Victory, A. B. Franklin, Nancy Nicholls, Dr. J. H. Neeley, Mary E. Nicholls, Moonglow, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Katherine Van Steen. This last one hasn't made its appearance in the bigtime as yet but watch for it when our good exhibitors get hold of it. Here are my nominations in the flesh and light pink class for Peonydom's "Emmie" award Moonstone, Alma Hansen, Dorothy J., Annisquam, Catherine Crain, La Lorraine, Doris Cooper, Nick Shaylor, Frances Mains, Florence Nicholls, George J. Nicholls, Hansina Brand, Hans. P. Sass, J. C. Nicholls, Laura Treman, Marilla Beauty, Minuet, Gardenia, Alice Harding. What a peony exhibitor's dream to see that lot all in one place at the same time.

In the medium and dark pink classes any one of these could win an "Oscar" in any show: Dolorodell, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Mandaleen, Mrs. John M. Kleitsch, Paul Bunyan, Sarah Bernhardt, Ella Lewis, Florence Ellis, Loren Franklin, Blanche King, Martha Bulloch.

The semi-doubles are the light heavyweights of the peony show ring. A number of them show up in the full double classes and can win there too. Here are a few that can be shown as true semi-doub-

es: Miss America, Ave María, A. G. Perry, Rare China, Flamingo, Minnie Shaylor, Red Goddess, Elizabeth Huntington, Matilda Lewis. Of this lot Miss America stands head and shoulders over the rest. This is my humble opinion.

Let's call the Japs the middleweights of a peony show. They are a versatile lot. A great many of them possess exhibition quality. These are my favorites: Tamate Boku (this is probably the greatest exhibition Jap of them all) Westerner, Isani-Gidui, Vanity (very fine color), Nippon Beauty, Plainsman, Rashoomon, Largo, Lotus Queen and White Gold all have what it takes.

The singles should be classed as the lightweights. In this group one stands out as a guide by which all other single exhibition peonies are measured, it is — Sea Shell. Another that seems destined to equal it is Pico. Krinkled White, Pres. Lincoln, Cgynet, Arcturus also have the inherent quality to win.

A group or class that I have said very little about are the Hybrids. They are comparatively newcomers to our peony shows. In fact it is only in the last 10 or 15 years that classes have been provided for them. Their claim to recognition has been primarily one factor — color. They have brought to our shows a clarity and brilliance of red color not found in the albifloras. Also they have given us pink "color breaks" heretofore not found in the albiflora color spectrum. In evaluating points of appraisal for the hybrids I feel that color value should most probably be the prime consideration and form and size be considered as secondary factors. When the hybridizers give us some fine rose formed doubles in the hybrids

perfection of form will then also take precedence. However the ideal even here is the combination of all three, form, color, and size. The outstanding exhibitionist to date in this group has been Red Charm. It has color, size and fine form for a bomb. In most varieties I have considered a bomb type as coarse, specially so when the bomb breaks up. However in defense of Red Charm, I want to point out that its bomb is refined in that the tips of the incured bomb petals are pointed or tipped with needle-like points. These pointed tips are more pronounced in other red hybrid bombs and are often referred to as jappy bombs. In any event Red Charm is the "Red Bomber" of the hybrid class. It is the champ having won its title more often than any other hybrid. However the first good full rose type hybrid that comes along will displace Red Charm. I don't think we have it yet, at least I have not seen it. I have one or two in my garden that give promise, but they will have to get some age first and prove themselves. I refer to a pretty good full rose formed double called Edgar Jessup. Heritage also gives promise as it too produces some full rose formed flowers on its plant. I think the color of Edgar Jessup is a shade better however. I consider Carina as having the finest red color of any peony, hybrid or not. It is a single. Only in the hybrids will you find a single winning readily over a double or semi-double. Alexander Woolcott also has what it takes to win. Its a semi-double with extra fine form. In pink, Laura Magnuson, Cytherea, Cecilia, Ludovica, Great Lady, have the color value and good form to make them real contenders in the hybrid class. It is the hybrids that are producing most of the excite-

JOHN M. JOHNSON
1873-1959

On December 3, 1959, there passed into the great beyond at his home town of Liberty, Indiana, one of the honored members of this Society and one of our best friends.

Mr. John M. Johnson was born September 25, 1873 on a farm about four miles from Liberty, where he spent his childhood.

He was educated in the public school of his district and was a good student. As a small boy he started on his life's work by planting seeds and setting out small trees.

After leaving school, he engaged in farming on his father's place which he bought about 1915. There he lived until 22 years ago, when he and Mrs. Johnson moved to Liberty and established their peony garden at the place which has been their home ever since.

He was a member of the Edwards Memorial Methodist Church in Liberty and was buried in College Corner Cemetery, College Corner, Ohio, the officiating minister being Rev. James P. Haas of his church in Liberty.

On March 6, 1901 he married his childhood neighbor, friend and schoolmate, who was a farmer's

ment in our peony shows today. They are exciting, exotic and ethereal in their beauty and they are early in their blooming season giving an exhibitor a chance to exhibit in a show that otherwise would be too early for the later blooming albifloras.

Yes, a peony show is a lure well nigh irresistible to those who love fine peonies. I can understand what motivated a man to cross the ocean from England to see an American Peony Show.

Marvin C. Karrels
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

daughter, Miss Retta Adelaide Swain. They made their home at 122 East Seminary Street, in Liberty. There, on about a half acre of land they grew vegetables, fruits and berries of all kinds which furnished an abundance for their use and, after generous donations to their neighbors, the surplus was transferred to cans, all done with the consummate skill which few possess, except those who have been trained from childhood in such arts.

The greater part of this lot was taken up by a beautiful flower garden of which the peonies formed the major portion. Their dwelling was a model of comfort and convenience.

The winter months, for the past twenty seven or eight years, have been spent in Lakeland, Florida, in the same apartment, where they had planned to spend this winter also. Directly across the street in Lakeland there is a shuffleboard court and there Mr. Johnson was wont to spend many of his hours each day and formed many lasting friendships there.

Mr. Johnson became interested in peonies about forty years ago, when he happened to pass the home of a lady who grew a few and sold the flowers. He bought a bloom for ten cents and took it home to his wife; the variety, *Festiva Maxima*. They both thought it one of the most beautiful flowers they had ever seen and, then and there, they became infected with the virus of peonyitis for which there is no cure.

That fall they started their peony garden which was destined to become their most cherished possession. From this garden has come several fine varieties and also the seed that, given to neighbors, have produced some of the

finest of all peonies.

One day when peony seed were ripening, there came two neighborhood farmer ladies and when passing a plant of Primevere, Mr. Johnson gathered a handful of seed and gave them to his visitors with the remark "Plant these and raise a yellow peony." Following his instructions these few seed were planted and in due time the results became known. Little did any one dream of the truly great varieties that would come from that chance planting.

From the seed given Mrs. Mattie Lafuze has come the peony which bears her name and which is now numbered among the one hundred best. It is one of the most distinctive varieties we have. Its extra strong stems with their heavily ribbed dark green foliage, bear flowers that often reach a diameter of nine to ten inches and a depth of four to six, which in spite of their size, stand up far better than most of these heavy doubles. It is also a most dependable bloomer, which is also rare in the late peonies. The form texture and substance of the flower is of the best and its color is an exquisite blend of white with some yellow and pink.

The seed given Mrs. Charles M. Shrader, produced several fine varieties, two of which have been named and disseminated. The best known of these is Rosanna Shrader, a light built, rather flat flower, of three shades of pink which has proven to be a good cut flower. It has good wiry stems of medium tall height. However the most beautiful of Mrs. Shrader's is White Rose, a flower of charm and loveliness unsurpassed. It is a semi-double whose snowy white is delicately tinted pink. It has strong stems with excellent foliage and it opens exceptionally late

for a semi-double. This is still comparatively rare. All of these three are most distinctive in the garden.

From Mr. Johnson's own garden, several excellent ones have come. However he has never placed any of them on the market. One of them, a pure white double, was sold to Mr. William H. Krekler a few years ago and he has named and registered it as Major A. M. Krekler. This has been listed in Mr. Krekler's catalog. We hope it will be shown at Van Wert, this year.

Another of his and one which the writer is fortunate enough to have in his garden, is a tall, strong stemmed, late light pink double which was named Retta for Mrs. Johnson.

Another one of his was named for his friend, Dr. Price of Richmond, Indiana. It is a white, anemone type, flower with good strong stems of medium height. Its roots have the habit of making eyes at any point as few lactiflora varieties ever do. Mr. Johnson sent me several roots once and from them three or four good plants developed which do not show any signs of disease which developed in the other plants. Dr. Price had a garden full of seedlings and he named one of them for Mr. Johnson. It was a rather small pink. I think there is a plant of it in my garden.

Before Mr. Johnson's death, he and Mrs. Johnson agreed that his peony garden should be given to his brother, Mr. Albert Johnson.

Another brother, who also survives, lives in St. Petersburg, Florida. To all his survivors, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and assure them that the Society has lost a valued member and many of us a personal friend.

Van Wert, Ohio — Site Of 1960 Natl. Peony Show

VAN WERT COUNTY

Van Wert County received its name from Isaac Van Wert, one of the three captors of Major Andre, a British spy, in 1780, in the Revolutionary War.

It is part of the territory lying at the southern edge of what was known as the Black Swamp, which abounded in furbearing animals, especially the beaver, the fur of which commanded the highest prices in the capitals of Europe. In fact, it was the competition between France and England for control of the fur trade of the Black Swamp, that brought the first known white man to what is now Van Wert County.

During the winter hunting season, this region was a paradise for the Indian hunter who knew trails through the Swamp. The Shawnees, after a desperate struggle with the Ottawas, regained the area of the headwater territory of the Maumee Valley, which they had lost to the Iroquois many years before, and the hunting grounds which now comprise Van Wert County fell into their control. In this quiet retreat, Indian warriors were won't to leave their families while conducting many of the battles of those early days, made famous by General Anthony Wayne, and relics of Indian living and burial grounds are found in all sections of the County. This district, of which Van Wert County is a part, occupies the center of a triangle formed by three rivers — the Maumee, Auglaize and St. Joseph, on whose banks the struggle for possession of the Northwest Territory was fought.

In 1790 General Harmar marched with his army to build an American fort at what is now Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and the Van

Wert County headwater creek area was used by Indians as a sanctuary for their women and children away from the war trails. But Harmar suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Shawnees and Miamis under Chiefs Little Turtle and Blue Jacket.

In 1791 General St. Clair marched towards this region, but did not even reach the St. Marys River, as his army was massacred by the Indians at what is now Fort Recovery in Mercer County. During the next two years the Indian trails through Van Wert County were alive with Indian runners carrying plans and orders of the great Indian Confederacy to defeat the army of General Anthony Wayne, which was forming at points on the Ohio River.

In his march north from Fort Washington (Cincinnati) Wayne traversed Van Wert County in August, 1794, and camped twice in this area, with his army of 5,000 men. After his defeat of the Indians at Fallen Timbers, near what is now Maumee, the Indians lost the hunting grounds of their forefathers, and in 1820 our part of the old Indian lands became Van Wert County. In 1834 James Watson Riley bought 240 acres of land for the location of a town in the center of Van Wert County and in 1838 the General Assembly of Ohio transferred the County Seat from Willshire, in the southwest corner of the county, to this new location under the name of Van Wert.

Van Wert, a small city of 12,000 in the rich agricultural section of Northwestern Ohio, abounds with historical significance. The village, founded in 1848, by an Irish immigrant, was eventually populat-

ed by a heavy concentration of people from Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New York. Many immigrants from Wales and Germany also settled here in years following.

Even before the white man came, the site on which Van Wert rests, was a traditional camping area of the Indians during the winter periods. From here the red man would forage into the Black Swamp Area to the north where hunting and trapping was excellent. From this region the Shawnees, Iroquois and Ottawas waged war for hunting rights. The Ottawas eventually regained the headwater territory of the Maumee Valley which now consists of Van Wert County, and from this place left their families to fight against General "Mad" Anthony Wayne.

Early history is flavored by the trapping industry, later barrel staves and still later, as the railroad forged into the area, there came a gradual diversification of business and commerce. Large scale clearing and drainage of the once tangled swampland has revealed a region of superior farm land. On this deep loam is raised much of Ohio's best yields in corn, wheat, soybeans, alfalfa, oats and sugar beets. Because of deep stratas of parent material in the form of limestone, there is an added soil nutrient in abundance which nurtures these crops.

The geology of the area is most interesting. Van Wert rests on the terminal moraine of one of the great beach ridges formed by glacial ice. Route 30 follows this beach ridge for many miles through Van Wert County and the topography to the north and south of this line is striking. It is easy to visualize the great plains to the north, once an extension of a vast

inland sea, the remains of which is now recognized as Lake Erie.

TOWN OF VAN WERT

James Watson Riley laid out Van Wert in 1835. Van Wert was incorporated in 1848. Being on the only railroad of the region, it rapidly grew in prestige to the extent that the county seat was moved from Willshire to Van Wert in 1838 upon decision by the Ohio General Assembly. The town was named after Isaac Van Wert, one of the three captors of Major Andre, a British spy of the Revolutionary War. Two neighboring counties received similar recognition in honor of the other two captors, Paulding and Williams.

Van Wert, until the period between World War I and World War II, was based upon an agricultural economy. This still provides a most important part of the business opportunity for the people; however, several important industries have brought still greater opportunity to the area. Presently, Van Wert enjoys the reputation of being the only place in the world where Liederkrantz Cheese is manufactured in the world's largest cheese factory operated by the Borden Company.

A large installation of Continental Can Company manufactures fibre drums here; National Seal Company, a division of Federal-Mogul-Bower Bearings, manufactures and assembles oil seals for a major part of the automobile, aircraft and farm equipment industry: Kennedy Manufacturing Company builds some of the very finest fishing tackle and tool boxes here; and Aeroquip Corporation is a major producer and assembler of flexible hydraulic hose lines and connections. Several stamping and metal working plants find Van Wert to be a suitable location for their operations.

and the insurance industry figures heavily in the economy of Van Wert, for it is here that Central Mutual Insurance Company has its home offices.

It is easy to understand, with this basic pattern of local business, that Van Wert enjoys great diversification of industry. The area likewise is considered quite clean in-so-far as industry appearance is concerned. This has been most beneficial to all concerned because, pictorially speaking, Van Wert is a beautiful community.

Helping to accentuate the esthetic values of Van Wert was a group of flower enthusiasts of many years ago. These people were partial to the Iris and Peony, in particular, and raised them in large commercial gardens of many acres in size. The names of Miss Clara Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Germann, C. F. Wassenberg, Lee R. Bonnewitz, Harry Beckmann, Dr. A. B. Himes, Mrs. Ivy Shaw, Vaughn Torrey, John O. Clark and William McGirr are among the many prominent initial growers who devoted much time and effort in bringing about new cultural methods for developing new and beautiful strains of these various flowers. Many growers imported exotic species and through years of cross-pollination and devoted work brought into existence many beautiful blooms which are now enjoyed by flower fanciers throughout the world.

Through the years, the existence of these large commercial gardens attracted vast crowds upon invitation by the growers during the flowering time. Gradually there developed other attractions at this time and a commercial incentive was born prior to World War II. This was the beginning of the Van Wert Peony Festival

which now takes its place among the greatest of parade attractions in this country. Floral tribute was rampant on the many beautiful floats, however, many of the large gardens have disappeared, leaving but one commercial garden at this time — the old Wassenberg Gardens—which now is managed by Mr. Richard Miller. Here the Peony, Iris and Lily still flourish in magnificent grace. The floral-decked floats have given way largely to the foil-decorated floats, which shine and dazzle in the sunlight and under the powerful spotlight glare. Bands and marching units from a three-state area are always anxious to participate in this granddaddy of Ohio summertime parades.

To match the beauty of the parades are local beauty queens who are chosen weeks before the Peony Festival from the eleven area high schools. Queen Jubilee reigns over all that transpires on the eventful day of the Peony Festival. Coronation ceremonies usually take place between the afternoon and evening parades, which in 1959 attracted an estimated 140,000 people. The mercantile area puts forth their best efforts to cater to the buying wants of the visiting public. The city is manicured and decked out in its finest beauty. Everywhere the townspeople make a special effort to mow lawns and cultivate their peony beds for the special presentation. Colorful bunting hangs from the store fronts and lamp posts throughout the downtown area and people are caught up in the festive atmosphere which hangs everywhere.

The Van Wert Peony Festival Association, which is composed of local businessmen and women have worked all year to bring into focus the best of gala parades and

events throughout the Peony Festival season. Of course, the Flower Show, which is held in the National Guard Armory, is one of the high-lights of the occasion. For two or three days, growers near and far bring in their finest efforts of flower culture and arrangements.

All civic and fraternal organizations join hands to help put on a bigger and better effort than the preceding year had yielded. It will all culminate this year on June 11, 1960, when the prognosticators of the Peony flower predict this famous plant will be in full bloom. There is always much local anxiety and prayerful attitude among the flower fanciers that weather conditions will be cooperative to bring about this hairline prediction and prophecy.

The Van Wert Chamber of Commerce, through the years, has acted as the principal clearing house for information and assistance during this period. Again, they stand ready to support any effort which will bring greater comfort and general enjoyment to the visitor on this occasion. The Chamber of Commerce is located in the Y.M.C.A. building, located on West Cain Street at the western edge of the business district. Peony Festival headquarters during the June 11 celebration has been and probably will be located in the Marsh Hotel in the heart of the business district.

Two hotels are available which have a total of 88 units and five motels provide 43 units for visitors. A total of 17 restaurants and eating establishments are available which have combined accommodations for 1200 people. Local businesses and services take great pains to provide the best for this occasion.

Here are some facts about this

city that we are sure will be of interest to our members, who are fortunate enough to be able to attend our annual meeting and show there next June. They are taken from a brochure sent us by Mr. Walter Smith, the Executive Manager of the Van Wert Chamber of Commerce.

Van Wert is a city of about 12,000 people (10,364, 1950 census) and is the county seat of Van Wert County which has an estimated population of about 30,000 (26,971, 1950). Its 3,700 substantial dwelling units reflect the conservative, steady character of its citizens. Here business and industry find workers who are well educated, progressive, adaptable, and dependable. They have established an outstanding record of high productivity within an atmosphere of settled labor conditions.

That it is a religious community is shown by the fact that there are twenty five churches of twenty denominations serving the spiritual needs of its inhabitants. It has outstanding YMCA and YWCA facilities.

Summer recreational programs are conducted for the young people and there is a municipal pool at the Fair Grounds available. A nine hole golf course is on the grounds of the Willow Bend Country Club and new recreational facilities are being constantly developed in the public parks throughout the city. The Van Wert County Fair is known as one of the finest in the State of Ohio.

The public school system consists of four elementary grade schools, one junior high school and one senior high. It is also the home of Giffin College, a junior college of limited enrollment. A parochial grade school is now under construction. There is a fine stadium and athletic field for

athletic events.

Its water system is capable of furnishing one and a half million gallons of treated water per day from a 380 million gallon reservoir. A modern sewerage system serves the city and there is abundant gas and electricity available from pipe lines and high voltage electric lines.

Its police force consists of 13 full time officers and patrolmen and an auxiliary force of forty. A post of the State Highway Patrol is located there. The Fire Department has 13 full time men and seven vehicles, two fire stations being manned.

Its industry is quite diversified. Many unusual and essential products are manufactured, some of which are fiber drum constainers, oil seals, hydraulic hose lines, work clothes, uniforms, metal stamping, tool boxes and kits, glue, air control products and insulating machinery. It is also the home of the largest cheese factory in the world in which the Borden Company makes all of its Liederkrantz Brand. The yearly value of the products manufactured by its over 2,000 workers is about fifty million and the payroll nine million.

Here is located the home office of the Central Mutual Insurance Co. Its two banks have total resources of over 17 millions and deposits of nearly sixteen million. Its two saving and loan associations have assets of nearly ten million and deposits of nearly nine million. The combined assets of these institutions is well over \$27 million.

Many retail establishments, both in the city and in shopping centers, offer a wide selection of merchandise at reasonable rates. Parking facilities are excellent.

The afternoon daily newspaper,

the Van Wert Times-Bulletin, adequately serves the area with a circulation of more than seven thousand. The Associated Press Wire Service and the King Features furnish excellent news coverage. Radio station WERT (1220 kcs), provides local news coverage and the state, national and international broadcasting is provided by the United Press international news service.

Its transportation needs are served by the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad from New York to Chicago, which has both passenger and freight service and a branch of the New York Central with freight facilities only. U. S. highways Nos. 30, 224 (east and west) and 127 (north-south) furnish excellent access from all points and many truck and bus lines serve the city.

The city has a municipally owned airport with 4,000 foot and 2,600 foot runways, offering daylight to dark service. Hangar space, repair service and gasoline available.

The 500,000 volumn Brumback Library has the distinction of being the first public county library in the United States. A fine art center and school and museum have been established by its citizens. There is also an active community concert group and over a hundred clubs and organizations contribute to the cultural development of its citizens.

A 108 bed hospital has just been completed and provides the most modern facilities.

Van Wert County ranks among the leading agricultural counties of Ohio. The main crops raised are corn, oats, wheat, sugar beets, soy beans and alfalfa. There are also many livestock and poultry farms. Its peony gardens, both commercial and private, are

55th Annual Exhibition
THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
 and the
1960 ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW
 of the
Garden Clubs of Van Wert County
held in connection with the
Van Wert Peony Festival
The Theme
"PEONIES ON PARADE"

NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
 South Washington Street
 Van Wert, Ohio

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1960 - 4 P.M. to 10 P.M.
 SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1960 - 9 A.M. to 7 P.M.

known the world over. Nearly every acre of this county is rich, tillable soil.

The assessed valuation of the city is slightly over \$16 million. The present combined state, county and city tax rate is \$2.73 per hundred valuation. The area of the city is 3.8 square miles. The postal receipts are about \$240,000.

Finally the Van Wert Annual Peony Festival is noted as one of the Nation's most spectacular events. It is sponsored by a non-profit, non-commercial organization, manned by volunteers.

VAN WERT, O.—Eleven candidates for the title of this year's Van Wert Peony Festival Queen Jubilee XVI have been named by their respective high schools in this area, it was announced today by John Maney, chairman of the queen choosing committee.

The queen will be selected in ceremonies slated for the Lincoln auditorium in Van Wert on Wednesday, April 27. The annual Festival has been scheduled for June 11. Held in connection with the festival will be the national Peony Show, sponsored by the American Peony Society, in the

GENERAL INFORMATION

HEADQUARTERS: Marsh Hotel,
 128 E. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio

HOTELS AND MOTELS:

Marsh Hotel, 128 E. Main St.
 Park Hotel, 233 S. Washington Street

Harding's Motel and Restaurant,
 732 W. Main St.

Stripe's Westgate Motel, 1111 W. Main St.

Rest Well Motel, West Lincoln Highway.

Tourotel, East Lincoln Highway
 Motel Ridge-Way, West Lincoln Highway.

Van Wert Armory building. The show will be held on June 10 and 11.

Schools that will be represented in the queen choosing ceremony and their respective candidates are:

Hoaglin-Jackson, Sally Demoss; York, Patty Perez; Willshire, Sharon Hamrick; Wren, Nancy Smith; Blue Creek, Janet Kay Tyas; Ohio City-Liberty, Janet Tickle; Convoy-Union, Linda Hall; Van Del, Patricia Ann Neer; Spencerville, Barbara Zuber; Delphos-Jefferson, Karen Adams; and Van Wert, Sue Prior.

RESERVATIONS: Please make your reservation direct with the above named.

RATES: For room with bath: hotels \$4 up and motels \$6 up, tax 3% not included.

PARKING: There will be plenty of space at the Armory.

SHIPPING PEONIES FOR DISPLAY: Those shipping in peonies for exhibition should prepay all charges. Ship by mail, air parcel post or air express, as may be suitable to the shipper, anytime after June 1st and in time to reach Van Wert by June 9th. If shippers use Express, they should ship their blooms to arrive Monday thru Friday. Our local Express office is closed on Saturday and Sunday. *Ship blooms addressed either to:*

Wilson's Flowers, 104 W. Main
McCoy's Flowers, 301 E. Main
Storage is limited in Van Wert. Florists will refer to committee responsible for storage.

Please give full details, list of varieties sent, classes to be entered, etc., if you wish your blooms staged by the Staging Committee. If you expect to be present to stage them yourself, give arrival time as near as possible. All shipments should be fully prepaid and plainly marked: *For National Peony Show.*

NOTE: If shipped from any point normally within overnight traveling time, it will not be necessary to use air transportation, but, if by mail, ship Special Delivery.

ADMISSION CHARGE 50c for a family; 25c single

SHOW OFFICERS

General Show Chairman: Werner L. Becher, Route 4, Van Wert, Ohio

Co-Chairman: Mrs. Elmer

Laemmle, Route 3, Van Wert, O.
Corresponding Secretary:

Mrs. Harries Evans, Route 1,
Venedocia, Ohio

Treasurer: Tom Giessler

Committee Chairmen:

Banquets: Mrs. Wilbur Phillipy

Banquet Tickets:

Walter M. Smith

Classification:

Mrs. Wm. W. Collins III

Education: Karl Giessler

Entries and Registration:

Mrs. R. A. Blake

Flower Storage: Vern Terry

Hospitality: Mrs. H. D. Smith

Housing and Reception:

The Rev. Paul D. Chiles

Judging:

Miss Ruth Evelyn Morris

Junior Division:

Mrs. Dan Friedly

Properties: Rudy Germann

Publicity: Mrs. C. Dan Pennell

Schedule: Arthur Brooks and

Richard L. Miller

Scrapbook: Mrs. Ralph Eck

Signs: Mrs. Albert Winterer

Staging: Mrs. Howard Wilkinson

PROGRAM

Thursday, June 9, 1960

The Armory exhibition room will be open for the benefit of those exhibitors who wish to place their blooms in water and set up their exhibits, the afternoon and evening of the 9th.

Friday, June 10, 1960

The exhibition room will be open for the placing of exhibits until 11:30 A.M. when all exhibits must be in place. Judging will begin at 12 Noon.

Exhibitors must stage their own blooms except that an out-of-town exhibitor who cannot be present, should notify the Show Co-Chairman, Mrs. Elmer Laemmle, RR No 3, Van Wert, Ohio, furnishing fu

information, and a committee will stage their blooms.

The show will be open to the public at 4 p.m. Queen Jubilee XVI will cut the ribbon officially opening the show at this time.

The first director's meeting will be held at some time during the afternoon, time and place to be decided after arrival.

The banquet will be held at the American Legion Hall, West Main Street, at 6:30 p.m. Following the banquet the annual meeting of the members will be held in the same building. Price not yet set.

The show will close at 10 p.m.

Saturday, June 11, 1960

The show will open at 9 a.m. It will close at 1 p.m. for the afternoon Peony Festival Parade which begins at 2 p.m. The show will reopen at 4 p.m. and close at 7 p.m. finally.

The second director's meeting will be held at the time and place most convenient to the members of the board.

SCHEDULE

RULES

A. All exhibits shall be in place by 11:30 A.M. of the opening day.

B. All peony blooms staged for competition must have been cut from plants owned by the exhibitor, except those used in arrangements.

C. Entry tags with class number visible, and the exhibitor's name concealed, will be furnished the exhibitor on arriving at the show room.

D. The number of entries in each class, made by any one exhibitor, is limited to one.

E. All varieties must be correctly named except those entries in Novice Amateur Classes 314 thru 318, and in baskets and vases for artistic effects. Wood labels should

be used and preferably written on both sides.

F. Double varieties shall be shown except where otherwise indicated.

G. The American Peony Society's manual will govern type of blooms.

H. Printed elsewhere in this program is a color classification of most of the varieties usually shown. This must be followed.

I. All containers, except in the arrangement classes, will be furnished by the exhibition committee.

J. The exhibitor who wins the most points in the Open Classes will be awarded a sweepstakes prize of \$12.00. The winner in the Advanced Amateur Classes \$8.00 and in the Novice Amateur Classes \$5.00. A peony root will be given to each exhibitor in the Novice Amateur Classes who did not win any awards.

K. Prizes will not be given to unworthy exhibits. When there is only one entry in a class the judges may award it first, second or third or nothing at their discretion. Their decision must be accepted as final.

Exhibitors are cautioned to show the exact number of blooms called for in each class.

L. Any exhibitor having exhibited at the Peony Show five years, automatically becomes an Advanced Amateur.

M. The Armory will be open Thursday afternoon and evening to prepare exhibits. All entries must be in place by 11:30 a.m. Friday Morning.

N. Each variety in a collection should be shown in a separate container, unless otherwise specified.

O. The show will not be dismantled until ten minutes after closing on Saturday to give all visitors time to leave.

P. Specific requirements pertain-

American Peony Society

MOST POPULAR PEONIES — 1959

These lists of the Most Popular Peonies were compiled from questionnaires sent out in November, 1959, to all members, asking for a list of the 25 best garden varieties, regardless of type, class or color, including hybrids and tree peonies, of which 112 were returned more or less completely filled out. Only those varieties that appeared on seven or more lists comprise the list of the ONE HUNDRED MOST POPULAR. The number in front of these varieties denotes the rank and the number after them gives the number of lists in which they were among the 25 best.

Several other desirable varieties are listed under each type and color.

Double

WHITE

- 41. Alesia, 14
- 42. Ann Cousins, 14
- 79. Casablanca, 7
- 83. Dr. J. H. Neeley, 7
- 7. Elsa Sass, 45
- 78. Evening Star, 8
- 8. Festiva Maxima, 42
- 44. Frances Willard, 14
- 5. Kelway's Glorious, 50
- 12. Le Cygne, 36
- 68. Marilla Beauty, 8
- 91. Mary Auten, 7
- 92. Mary E. Nicholls, 7
- 49. Mrs. A. M. Brand, 13
- 33. Mrs. J. V. Edlund, 17
- 27. Victory, 20
- Aglow, Amberglow, Amalia Olson, Dedication, Doug's White, Ethel Mars, Elora, Henry E. Sass, Jacob Styer, Katherine van Steen, Moonglow, Rapture, Mother's Choice, Yosemite, Walter E. Wipson, Tuckdawa

BLUSH or FLESH

- 63. A. B. Franklin, 9
- 28. Alice Harding, 19
- 38. Baroness Schroeder, 15
- 68. Dorothy J., 8
- 48. Florence Nicholls, 13
- 54. Gardenia, 11

- 55. George W. Peyton, 11
- 56. Hans P. Sass, 11
- 59. La Lorraine, 10
- 57. Lillian Wild, 10
- 61. Mattie Lafuze, 10
- 19. Moonstone, 27
- 34. Nancy Nicholls, 17
- 31. Solange, 18
- Alma Hansen, George J. Nicholls, Mrs. Harry F. Little, Odile, Ramona Lins, Nimbus, Ethereal, Rose of Miamis

LIGHT PINK

- 53. Auten's Pride, 11
- 29. Dolorodell, 19
- 37. Doris Cooper, 16
- 72. Ella Christiansen, 8
- 85. Frances Mains, 7
- 13. Hansina Brand, 34
- 88. Lottie Dawson Rea, 7
- 32. Minuet, 17
- 11. Myrtle Gentry, 37
- 4. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, 52
- 76. Mme. Jules Dessert, 8
- 3. Nick Shaylor, 56
- 62. Reine Hortense (Pres. Taft), 10
- 14. Therese, 32
- 90. Tourangelle, 8
- 22. Walter Faxon, 25
- Annisquam, Blush, Hargrove Hudson, Mary B. Vories, Florence Ellis, Gene Wild, Mandaleen

YELLOW

Oriental Gold

NEAR BLUE

Blue Rose

DARK PINK

- 25. Blanche King, 20
- 42. Edulis Superba, 14
- 82. Ensign Moriarty, 7
- 16. Martha Bulloch, 29
- 26. Mrs. Livingston Farrand, 20
- 1. Mons. Jules Elie, 57
- 10. Sarah Bernhardt, 40
- 100. Souvenir de Louis Bigot, 7
- 79. Tondeleyo, 8
- Alice Reed Bates, Better Times,
- Emma Klehm, Helen Hayes,
- Loren Franklin, Jessie Gist,
- Paul Bunyan, Joe Hanratty,
- Margaret Clark, Vivid Rose,
- June Rose

RED

- 51. Big Ben, 12
- 24. Felix Crousse, 22
- 88. Highlight, 7
- 2. Kansas, 56
- 20. Karl Rosenfield, 25
- 45. Longfellow, 14
- 21. Mary Brand, 25
- 93. Matilda Lewis, 7
- 77. Mons. Martin Cahuzac, 8
- 6. Philippe Rivoire, 49
- 39. Richard Carvel, 15
- 40. Ruth Elizabeth, 15
- 99. Shawnee Chief, 7
- 50. Tempest, 18

RED

Felix Supreme, Lowell Thomas,
John L. Crenshaw, Bonanza,
King Midas, Ruth Clay, Black
Velvet, Jay Cee, Mauna Loa,
Red Cloud

Semi-Double**WHITE or BLUSH**

- 38. Minnie Shaylor, 15
- 95. Miss America, 7
- A. G. Perry, Margaret Lough,
- Marie Jacquin, Nanette, Rare
- China, Susan B. White, Titania,
- White Rose, Zuzu

PINK

- 66. Auguste Dessert, 8
- 74. Lady Alexandra Duff, 8
- Ave Maria, Aerie, Coral Isle,
- Banner Bright, Mrs. Deane
- Funk, Prairie Belle, Phyllis Kel-
- way, Silvia Saunders, Spring
- Beauty

RED

- 78. The Mighty Mo, 8
- Albuquerque, Chippewa, Maes-
- tro, Red Goddess

Anemone

D-double; J-Japanese; P-pink;
R-red; W-white; Y-yellow

- 86. Gay Paree, 7, J. P-W
- 97. Prairie Afire, 7 J. P-R
- 98. Primevere, 7, D. W-Y
- Ada Priscilla, D. W-Y; Gleam of
- Gold, D. W-Y; Aureolin, J. P-Y;
- Do Tell, J. orchid pink; J. C.
- Legg, D. W-Y; Laura Dessert,
- D. W-Y; Mad. Butterfly, J. P;
- Nippon Gold, J. P-Y; Torpilleur,
- J. R

Japanese**WHITE or BLUSH**

- 19. Isani Gidui, 28
- 52. Lotus Queen, 12
- 94. Plainsman, 7
- Bu-te, Carrara, Deanna, Moon
- of Nippon, Polar Star, Shaylor's
- Sunburst, Toro-no-maki, Chris-
- tine, White Gold

LAVENDER

Lavender Lady, Lilac Time

PINK

- 30. Ama-no-sode, 18
- 23. Westerner, 24
- Akashigata, Donna Jean, Doreen,
- Goddess, Iwo, Largo, Sky Pilot,
- Tamate Boku, Vanity, Xenia,
- Yellow King, Glamour, Party
- Girl, Sagamore, Hawaiian Sunset

RED

- 46. Charm, 12
- 87. Hari-ai-nin, 7
- 69. Mrs. Wilder Bancroft, 9
- 75. Mikado, 8
- 35. Nippon Beauty, 17
- 70. Nippon Brilliant, 8
Bandarilla, Break o'Day, Dignity, Midnight Sun, Rashoomon, Sword Dance, Waikiki

Single

WHITE or BLUSH

- 15. Krinkled White, 31
- 88. Le Jour, 7
- 36. Pico, 17
Albiflora, The Bride, Champlain, Dunlora, Exquisite, Rebecca, Virginia Dare, Watchman, Cygnet, Opha

PINK

- 94. Mischief, 7
- 17. Seashell, 29
Angelus, Cinderella, Dawn Pink, Elfin Pink, Helen, Josette, Pride of Langport, Sparkling Star, Kissimmee
- 65. Arcturus, 9
Fortune Teller, Flander's Fields, Imperial Red, Man o'War, President Lincoln, Red Harmony

Hybrids

WHITE

- Archangel, S; Chalice, S; Campaigna, S; Garden Peace, S; Starlight, S; White Innocence, S; Early and Late Windflower, S

PINK

- 60. Laura Magnuson, 10, SD
Dainty Lass, J; Elizabeth Foster, S; Eros, S; Eventide, S; Janice, S; Lotus Bloom, SD; Lovely Rose, SD; Ludovica, SD; May Dawn, S; Nathalie, SD; Queen Rose, SD-D; Roselette, S; Salmon Glow, S; Salmon Beauty, D; Sophie, S; Victoria Lincoln, D

RED

- 64. Alexander Woollcott, 9, SD
- 47. Chocolate Soldier, 13, S-SD
- 67. John Harvard, 8, S
- 9. Red Charm, 39, D
Angelo Cobb Freeborn, D; Bright Knight, S; Carina, SD; Crusader, D; Flame, S; Golden Glow, S; Helen Matthews, SD; Laddie, S; Mahogany, S; Red Red Rose, SD; Robert W. Auten, D; Rose Marie, D; Veritas, SD; Walter Mains, J

YELLOW

- 82. Claire de Lune, 7. S
Daystar, S; Moonrise, S; Gwendal, Rushlight, S; Sunlight, S; Nova, S

OTHER COLORS

- Ballerina, greenish yellow, D
Camellia, white flush peach, SD
Green Ivory, light green, S
Lavender, lilac, S
Alida, lavender, SD-D
Athena, palest yellow with green tints, S

Tree Peonies

No tree peony received as many as seven listings in the Best 25 lists, hence none are among the 100 Best. However the majority of those listed here were in one or more of these lists of the 25 Best. The most popular variety in each color is the first one listed under that color.

WHITE

- Gessekai, SD-D, the most popular
Coronal, S; Flora, S; Gabisan, D; Godaishu, D; Kamikaze, D; Renkaku, D; Suisho-haku, SD; Tsuki-sekai, D; Yaso-no-mine, D; Yaso-okina, D

PINK

- Tama-fuyo, D
Hana-Kisoi, D; Howzan, D; Reine Elizabeth, D; Shin-tenchi, SD; Suigan, D; Yachiyo-tsubaki D; Yae-zakura, D; Yomozakura, SD

PURPLE

Hana-daijin, D; Hora Kumon, D;
Rimpo, SD

YELLOW

Souvenir de Maxime Cornu, D
Age of Gold, D; Alice Harding,
D; Amber Moon, S; Argosy, S;
Canary, S; Chromatella, D; Gold-
en Bowl, SD; La Lorraine, D;
Narcissus, S; Roman Gold, S;
Silver Sails, S; Wings of the
Morning, S

BLACK RED

Black Pirate, S; Black Douglas, SD;
Black Panther, SD; Kuro-botan,
SD; Ubatama, D; Thunderbolt S

ROSE RED

Hinode-sekai; Hodai, D; Shin-kagura,
D; Ukaregi-ohi, SD

SCARLET

Nissho, D
Impumon, D; Kin-pukurin, SD;
Robert Fortune, D; Taiyo, SD;
Tama-midori, SD

RED (Crimson)

Kokamon, D; Satin Rouge, D; Shug-
yo-kuden, SD; Teikwan, D

OTHER COLORS

Aurore, terra cotta, S
Kamada-fuji, wisteria, D
Princess, mauve and gold, SD
Savage Splendor, ivory, purple and
red, S

An Invitation

The American Peony Society cordially invites "all reputable persons, whether professional or amateur, who are interested in the peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development" to join its ranks.

The annual dues are five dollars. The year begins January 1 and ends December 31. Members are admitted at any time of the year. Those who join before August 1 are booked for the current year and receive all back bulletins for the current year that have been issued to date, if available, and in addition one or two extra back Bulletins. Those who join after that date receive the two remaining Bulletins for the current year free and their memberships are dated for the following calendar year. The Bulletins are issued quarterly in March, June, September and December. Three dollars of the membership fee are assigned to cover the cost and two dollars for other necessary expenses.

Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members of the Society is five dollars a year. No commissions are allowed anyone and no memberships or subscriptions for less than one year accepted.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

TREE PEONY MONOGRAPH *Sold out.*

COLOR SLIDE COLLECTION (35 mm. slides), about a hundred slides of all types, including hybrid and tree peonies. Rent \$5.00. Return postage must be paid by renter. Insure for \$50.00. Renter supplies projector.

HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY, 36 page booklet of concise articles on why, when to plant, care, propagation, culture of peonies of all kinds including tree peonies (8 pages); 3 line drawings, 8 black and white illustrations. Short lists of varieties and sources supply included. Price 25 cents each, 20 cents each in quantities of 50 or more to one address.

BACK BULLETINS. Issues in plentiful supply 50 cents each. Four for one dollar our selection. All other issues one dollar each when available.

MOST POPULAR PEONIES—Small leaflet listing most popular peonies of all types, including hybrids and tree peonies. Price 10 cents each.

PEONIES OUTDOORS AND IN. Arno and Irene Nehrling, Hearthsides Press, Inc., New York. About 300 pages, 100 black and white illustrations and eleven color plates. Contents similar to those of the Handbook with the addition of a section on Peonies Indoors, arrangements and how to stage a show. About forty pages are devoted to the Tree Peony. Price to members of the American Peony Society: \$4.95 each, \$5.95 to non-members.

ing to accessories and measurements of the Garden Flowers and Artistic Arrangements classes are listed in their respective classes.

Van Wert, Ohio, is in the Eastern Standard Time Zone.

Only *albiflora* (*lactiflora*) varieties may be entered in any class unless otherwise specified.

A GRAND CHAMPION OF THE SHOW will be chosen by the judges appointed for the purpose from any flower shown in competition that may merit the award. The winner will be awarded the Charles F. Wassenberg Trophy.

OPEN CLASSES

Open to all who grow peonies whether for pleasure or profit.

100A. COURT OF HONOR. A CHAMPION for each of the eight sections of this class as specified below, will be chosen. All exhibitors are urged to enter their best blooms in this class and are limited to six blooms double, not more than two in any one color, and to two single, two Japanese and two herbaceous hybrids. Also to be eligible to enter this class each exhibitor must have entered three or more peony classes and actually made entries in same.

- (a) Double—white.
- (b) Double—flesh.
- (c) Double—light pink.
- (d) Double—dark pink.
- (e) Double—red.
- (f) Single—any color.
- (g) Japanese—any color.
- (h) Herbaceous hybrid—any type or color.

100 B. COLLECTION of five double varieties, one bloom each, any color, each bloom in a separate container.

The Silver Medal of the American Peony Society will be awarded the winner in this class.

NOTE: All blooms entered in this

class (100 B) will be eligible for competition with those entered in Class 100 A. Color must be marked on each label.

101. GOLD MEDAL CLASS. Collection of twenty-five varieties, one bloom each. Not more than ten blooms may be single and/or Japanese types. Hybrids are not permitted. 35-25-15

102. Collection of ten varieties, double, three blooms each, any colors. 25-20-15

103. Three blooms, one variety, double-white or flesh. 10-7-5

104. Three blooms, one variety, double-light pink. 10-7-5

105. Three blooms, one variety, double-dark pink. 10-7-5

106. Three blooms, one variety, double-red. 10-7-5

107. VISITOR'S CLASS. Not open to exhibitors from the State of Ohio. Five different named varieties, one bloom each, any type or color. A special award will be made in this class.

108. One bloom, double-white. 5-3-1

109. One bloom, double-flesh. 5-3-1

110. One bloom, double-light pink. 5-3-1

111. One bloom, double-dark pink. 5-3-1

112. One bloom, double-red. 5-3-1

113. Three blooms, one variety, Japanese-white or flesh. 7-5-3

114. Three blooms, one variety, Japanese-pink. 7-5-3

115. Three blooms, one variety, Japanese-red. 7-5-3

116. Collection of five varieties, Japanese, one bloom each. 15-10-5

117. Three blooms, one variety, single-white or flesh. 7-5-3

118. Three blooms, one variety, single-pink. 7-5-3

119. Three blooms, one variety, single-red. 7-5-3

120. Collection of five varieties, single, one bloom each. 15-10-5
121. Three blooms, one variety, any type, hybrid-white, flesh or yellow. 7-5-3
122. Three blooms, one variety, any type, hybrid-pink. 7-5-3
123. Three blooms, one variety, any type, hybrid-red. 7-5-3
124. Collection of not more than ten varieties, hybrids, one bloom each. 15-10-5
125. Collection of three varieties, hybrids, one bloom each. 7-5-3
126. One bloom, any type, any color, tree peony. 5-3-1
127. Three blooms, one variety, any type, any color, tree peony. 7-5-3
128. Collection of not more than ten varieties, any type, any color, tree peony. 15-10-5

ADVANCED AMATEUR CLASSES

201. SILVER MEDAL CLASS. Open to Advanced Amateurs Novice Amateurs. Collection of fifteen different varieties, one bloom each. Not more than ten blooms may be single and/or Japanese types. Hybrids not permitted. 25-20-10
202. Collection of five named varieties, double, three blooms each. 25-20-10
203. Three blooms, one variety, double-white. 7-5-3
204. Three blooms, one variety, double-flesh. 7-5-3
205. Three blooms, one variety, double-light pink. 7-5-3
206. Three blooms, one variety, double-dark pink. 7-5-3
207. Three blooms, one variety, double-red. 7-5-3
208. Three blooms, one variety, Japanese-any color. 7-5-3
209. Three blooms, one variety, single-any color. 7-5-3
210. Collection of five named

- varieties of hybrids, one bloom each, any type, any color. 10-7-4
211. Three blooms, one variety, hybrid, single, any color. 7-5-3
212. Three blooms, one variety, hybrid, semi-double or double, any color. 7-5-3

NOVICE AMATEUR CLASSES

301. BRONZE MEDAL CLASS. Open only to Novice Amateurs. Collection of five different varieties, one bloom each. Not over three blooms may be Japanese and/or single types. Hybrids are not permitted. 25-20-10
302. One bloom, double-white or flesh. 5-3-1
303. One bloom, double - light pink. 5-3-1
304. One bloom, double - dark pink. 5-5-3
305. One bloom, double-red. 5-3-1
306. Three blooms, one or more varieties, one container. 9-6-3
307. Collection of three varieties, one bloom, each. Limited to those who have never won a peony prize in a State Show. 9-6-3
308. One bloom, Japanese—any color. 5-3-1
309. One bloom, single, any color. 5-3-1
310. One bloom, hybrid, any type or color. 5-3-1
311. Collection of five varieties, one bloom each. Limited to exhibitors who have never shown peonies before. First: \$10.00; Second: \$5.00; Third: \$3.00, plus additional valuable peony roots.
312. One bloom, unlabelled, double-white or flesh. 5-3-1
313. One bloom, unlabelled, double-light pink. 5-3-1
314. One bloom, unlabelled, double-dark pink. 5-3-1
315. One bloom, unlabelled, double-red. 5-3-1
316. Three blooms, one or more

varieties, unlabelled, any type, any color, one container. 9-6-3

317. One bloom, unlabelled, Japanese type, any color. 5-3-1

318. One bloom, unlabelled, single type, any color. 5-3-1

SEEDLINGS AND NEW VARIETIES

Any variety that has not been offered for sale to the public shall be classed as a SEEDLING. It must be either named or numbered.

Any variety of recent origin that has been named and offered for sale to the public shall be recognized as a NEW VARIETY.

These classes are open to all and any color, type, species, hybrid, including tree peonies, may be shown.

All awards in classes 401, 402, 403, and 404 will be made by the Standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society. Their decisions are final.

Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded in classes 401, 402, 403. First Class Certificates, bronze, silver or gold medal certificates may be awarded in classes 402 and 403.

401. SEEDLINGS that have never been divided or propagated. Each exhibitor is limited to five entries. One to three blooms of each variety may be shown. Only Certificates of Honorable Mention may be awarded.

402. SEEDLINGS that have been divided and propagated. Each exhibitor is limited to ten varieties. Three blooms of each variety must be shown.

403. NEW VARIETIES. (See definition above.) Each exhibitor is limited to ten varieties. Three blooms of each variety must be shown.

404. AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL. Offered by the American Home Maga-

zine of New York to the originator of the best and most distinctive new peony shown, specifically, in this class, under rules specified by them, as follows:

1. A specific entry must be made in this class. The number of entries by any one exhibitor is not limited.

2. Not less than three (3) blooms of each variety entered must be shown.

3. Any type, species, or hybrid, including tree peonies, may be shown.

4. The varieties shown must have distinctiveness as compared to existing varieties.

5. No variety that has been offered for sale for more than three years prior to the date of this show, may be entered.

6. No variety that has won this award in any previous year, may be entered.

7. Every variety entered must be named and the name approved and registered by the American Peony Society. No awards will be confirmed until this provision has been met.

8. The award shall be made by the Standard Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society.

9. Photographs of both the winning variety and its originator, either in color transparency, or black and white, preferably not smaller than 4"x5", must be furnished if possible by the winner to the American Home Magazine free of charge.

SPECIAL MEDALS AND TROPHIES

In addition to the medals mentioned in the above classes, the following medals may be awarded at the discretion of the judges:

THE JAMES BOYD MEMORIAL MEDAL, donated by the Penn-

sylvania Horticultural Society, on year to year basis, will be awarded to the exhibitor having the outstanding exhibit, collection or display in the opinion of the judges appointed to award this medal.

THE B. H. FARR MEMORIAL MEDAL in bronze for the best double *lactiflora* (*albiflora*, *chinensis*) peony shown.

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BRONZE MEDALS for:

The best single type *albiflora* variety that is shown.

The best Japanese type *albiflora* variety shown.

The best herbeaceous hybrid shown.

THE CHARLES F. WASSENBERG MEMORIAL TROPHY to the Grand Champion of the show.

Annual Flower Show of the Garden Clubs of Van Wert County

HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

SECTION V

1. All plant material in these classes must have been grown by the exhibitor and be correctly named as to variety, or marked "Unknown"

2. Exhibits not meeting the specifications of the schedule may be shown but will not be judged. They will be marked "For display only"

3. The Committee will provide suitable containers for exhibits in this Section.

4. All entries must be turned over to the Entries and Classification Committees who will place them in the proper class.

5. Exhibitors are advised to cut their blooms the night before the show and properly "harden" them in water.

ROSES

Specimen blooms in the Hybrid

Tea classes must be grown disbudded. All other roses must be shown without disbudding.

Blooms should be correctly named. An unnamed rose creates a feeling of lack of interest; and a show should be educational as well as beautiful.

When classified by color, each rose is judged against the ideal of the particular variety. Length of stem should be in proportion to the size of the bloom. Foliage is included in the judging.

At the time of judging, a specimen bloom should be in the most perfect phase of its beauty and half to three quarters open. Buds less than one third open do not qualify as blooms.

ONE BLOOM HYBRID TEA ROSE

501. White or near white.

502. Pink.

503. Yellow.

504. Red.

505. Blend.

506. Three blooms Hybrid Tea Roses, different varieties, in one container.

507. One stem Grandiflora Rose, any color.

508. One stem Floribunda or Polyantha Rose, any color.

509. One stem Climbing Rose, not over 30 inches long from the tip.

510. One stem Miniature Rose, any color.

DELPHINIUMS

511. One spike white

512. One spike light blue

514. One spike any other color

515. Three spikes, different colors, in one container

AQUILEGIA (Columbine)

516. One stem any color.

PYRETHRUM (Painted Daisies)

517. Three stems, any one color.

SIBERIAN IRIS

518. Three stems, any one variety.

LILIES

519. One stalk any hardy variety

OTHER HARDY FLOWERS

520. Three stems, one variety. Biennials or perennials.

521. and on as needed.

A separate class will be formed for any other hardy flower where three or more entries of the same species are made.

SECTION VI ARRANGEMENTS

RULES

1. All arrangements must be made by the exhibitor.

2. Flowers used in arrangements need not be grown by exhibitor but must be garden grown.

3. No artificial flowers or foliage may be used in this show.

DEFINITIONS

1. An arrangement is to be interpreted as any cut plant material in a suitable container.

2. A composition is to be interpreted as an arrangement with one or more accessories.

3. A Free-Standing arrangement is one which may be viewed from all sides.

ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

Open to All

Section VI (Classes in 600's)

Bases and additional foliage may be used in all arrangement classes in this show.

Class 601. QUEEN OF THE SHOW. Peonies exclusively, with or without additional foliage. Exhibitors are permitted choice of color, motif and design.

602. JUNE ELEGANCE. Free-Standing mass arrangement, featuring peonies, with other flowers and foliage.

603. IN THE ORIENTAL MAN-

NER. Oriental composition; inspired by Japanese design. Single or Japanese peonies only to be used.

The following Classes have two parts each:

A. Open to those who have won three or more Blue Ribbons for arrangements.

B. Open to all others.

604. ROSETIME. An arrangement featuring roses, with or without other flowers and foliage, suitable for a dining table.

605. ALONG THE GARDEN PATH. Arrangement of garden flowers in a woven tray or basket.

606. SIMPLICITY. Arrangement in a goblet of three flowers and foliage, or two flowers, a bud and foliage.

607. EMERALD AND JADE. All green arrangement emphasizing texture and light and dark values of green.

608. RHYTHM. An arrangement in a pitcher.

609. CAREFREE. Exhibitor's choice of plant material and container. Accessories permitted.

610. FRUITS OF THE EARTH. Arrangement of vegetables and/or fruits and foliage, on or in a base or container.

611. STILL LIFE. A composition, arranged as if for painting, including flowers and/or fruit, foliage and accessories. Drape allowed. Background provided, height 24", width 24". Limited to six entries which must be made three days in advance of the Show with Mrs. F. W. Purmort. R.F.D. 5, Van Wert, Ohio. Telephone 2-4786.

SECTION VII

RULES FOR THE JUNIOR SHOW

1. Entries should be brought to the Armory between 8 and 11 A.M. Friday, June 10.

2. All exhibits must be left until the close of the show at 7 P.M. Saturday, June 11.

3. Exhibitors must furnish their own containers appropriate to the Class. (In Classes 702 and 704—"One bloom"—a pop bottle or milk bottle is recommended.)

4. All containers should be marked on the base with the name of the exhibitor. (A small piece of adhesive tape gives a good marking surface.)

5. The Show Committee will not be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits.

6. Flowers need not be grown by the exhibitor, but an effort should be made to learn the names of the flowers used.

7. Exhibitors must make their own arrangements. Parents may help with suggestions only. Only one entry can be made in any one class.

8. Division I—up to 8 years of age.

Division II—over 8 years of age.

HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

DIVISION I

701. An educational exhibit of fresh or dried flowers or leaves displayed on a poster board and properly identified.

702. One bloom to be judged on horticultural excellence.

DIVISION II

703. An educational exhibit of fresh or dried flowers or leaves displayed on a poster board and properly identified.

704. One bloom to be judged on horticultural excellence.

ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

DIVISION I (under 8 years of age)

705. FOND MEMORIES. A small arrangement, not to exceed 8" in height, of miscellaneous flowers in a small container without accesso-

ries, suitable to be given to a teacher or a friend.

706. NATURE'S TREASURES. An original arrangement, not to exceed 8" in height or width, with or without accessories.

DIVISION II (over 8 years of age)

707. TINY JEWELS. A small arrangement, not to exceed 6" in height, in an unusual container such as an ink bottle, perfume container, etc. (One without special ornamentation.)

708. SUMMER SPLENDOR. An original arrangement not to exceed 8" in height or width, with or without accessories.

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

WISLEY TRIALS, 1959

The following awards to PAEONIES, as varieties for garden decoration, have been made by the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society, after trials as Wisley.

Award of Merit To

ROBERT W. AUTEN

Raised, introduced and sent by Mr. Edward Auten, Jr., Princeville, Illinois, U.S.A.

Highly Commended To

LATE WINDFLOWER

Raised and introduced by the late Professor A. P. Saunders and sent by Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York, U.S.A.

LOVELY ROSE

Raised and introduced by the late Professor A. P. Saunders and sent by Miss Silvia Saunders, Clinton, New York, U.S.A.



THE VAN WERT ARMORY on South Washington Street where the 1960 Annual Exhibition of the American Peony Society will be held June 10-11.

Foster Park Peony Planting

Foster Park is located in the South-west section of Fort Wayne, Indiana, near the Broadway entrance to the park. It contains approximately 3,000 plants from 13-15 years of age, planted in a pleasingly shaped arrangement of beds and grassed aisle ways.

Visitors will be welcome. It will be an added point of interest to those who attend our annual meeting and exhibition in Van Wert, as Fort Wayne is only a few miles west of Van Wert.

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. W. H. Allen, 809 S. W. 35th, Oklahoma City, 9, Oklahoma.

Gene E. Castro, 1134 Sally Street, Hollister, California.

James A. Dressman, Sr., Route 5, Covington, Kentucky.

Josiah M. Erickson, Suite 1007, 17 Battery Place, New York 4, N.Y.

Mrs. W. T. Harwell, 507 Fifth Avenue, North Amory, Mississippi.

Miss Clara Jeglum, Route 1, Buxton, North Dakota.

Mrs. John M. Johnson, 122 East Seminary Street, Liberty, Indiana.

Mrs. Rose B. Kamin, 3711 Amelia Boulevard, Oklahoma City 12, Oklahoma.

Joe Kedney, Southridge Gardens, 4737 West 41st Avenue, Gary Indiana.

John D. Kreichbaum, Route 2, Bernville, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Elberta Kruger, Garrison, Iowa.

Mrs. Lewis E. Meinhardt, 612 S. W. 52nd Street, Oklahoma City 9, Oklahoma.

Otto Meinhold, Route 1, Langley, Washington.

Arnold W. Messmahl, Route 4, Box 528, North Brunswick, New Jersey.

Mrs. Stephen Ricarte, 2012 Simpson Avenue, Aberdeen, Washington.

Rev. Joseph A. Syrový, St. Mary's Church, Vining, Iowa.

John C. Taylor, 105 Broadway Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Mrs. Pearl E. Whitaker, 1110 South 12th Avenue, Yakima, Washington.

Lambert de Wit, 3699 Jeanne Mance, Montreal 4, Quebec, Canada.

MERGER

OF HORTICULTURAL GROUPS CONSUMMATED

Margaret Herbst, Chairman
Promotion & Publicity Com.
American Horticultural Soc.

After considerable negotiation and meetings of the Directors designated by both the American Horticultural Council and the American Horticultural Society, a merger of these groups has now been consummated. The name of American Horticultural Society was selected for the combined organization.

The following officers were elected to serve for the coming year: President, Dr. Richard P. White, Washington, D.C., 1st Vice-President, Donald Wyman, Jamaica Plain, Mass., 2nd Vice-President, Stuart Armstrong, Washington, D.C.

The American Horticultural Council had functioned for a period of fourteen years basically as a federation of more than 120 organizations and societies interested in various phases of horticulture. On the other hand, the original American Horticultural Society was basically a direct membership organization of about 5,000 individuals with a few affiliated associations and societies. Due to this union, the efforts and facilities of both organizations to both groups will better serve all horticulture in the United States.

The Secretary's Trek (First Lap)

When in January of this year, a call came from Mrs. Dorothy Knapp stating that the management of the Flower and Patio Show in Indianapolis, Indiana, had donated a booth for our use during their spring show and asking for my help in handling it, arrangements were made for me to attend, so, on the evening of March 7, I left Orange, Virginia on the George Washington of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, for Cincinnati. At that time the second big snow storm of the season had left us nine inches of it on the ground and, as I boarded the train, the third storm had begun. So I wondered what I would find out in Hoosier Land.

Arriving in Cincinnati on time at 7:30 the next morning, I had a good breakfast in the station restaurant, and left on the James Whitcomb Riley of the New York Central and after a pleasant journey of just two hours, which was made far more pleasant by having as the occupant of the seat next to me, an attractive lady who had taught in the Orange, Virginia, High School some twenty years ago and who had probably taught some of my children. Of course we had many matters of mutual interest to discuss, so the time swiftly passed.

We reached Indianapolis somewhat ahead of time, and as my pace is now much slowed up over that of former years, I asked my seatmate and also a genial gentleman who sat in front of us, to tell whoever they found at the foot of the stairs waiting for me, that I would be along in due time and I stated that they could easily identify the lady in waiting as she would be either a handsome brunette or a beautiful

blonde. This was much to the amusement of the other passengers. I think the directions were sufficient as Dorothy met me and I believe had been notified of my arrival.

From the station we drove to her house near Carmel, where I hung up my hat for the duration of the show except for one night, which was spent in the home of Judge and Mrs. George M. Ober (Mary Helen).

The rest of this day and the morning of the next was spent in making ready for the show. The Knapps had already done the spade work beginning in January when Earl quarried out of ten inches of frozen ground, the plants that were to be forced into bloom to adorn the booths. He confesses that this was the hardest work he ever did. Many nights and off days were spent by Earl in constructing the booths and other accessories necessary to the successful set-up of our exhibits. To Dorothy fell the correspondence and other duties so much better performed by a woman than a man. This meant the expenditure of many hours of hard labor and also no inconsiderable amount of ready cash. Their booth was adjoining and connected with that of the Society, so the problem of staffing them was rendered much easier. Helping out with this were Mrs. Ober, several friends of the Knapps and for two days, Mr. and Mrs. Denlinger.

When all was ready for the opening, the Knapp's booth had a beautiful picture of Tourangelle peonies hanging in the center of the back wall and a low shelf with a blooming plant of Golden Glow at one end and one of Miss America at the other with suitable signs

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for advertising the garden. There was a counter in front for the transaction of business. The Society's booth had a sign on one side giving an invitation to join the Society and on the other, one inviting all to come to the Annual Meeting, Exhibition and Peony Festival at Van Wert, Ohio next June. The top center of the booth had a long sign painted on oil cloth with the words "American Peony Society", This is a permanent sign and can be preserved for future use wherever desired. There was a table in one corner of the rear for holding the matter we had for sale and display. The front of the booth had two tables, connecting, which held samples of the Bulletin, the Handbook of the Peony, the list of Most Popular Peonies — 1959 and the new book PEONIES OUTDOORS AND IN.

The center of these tables was occupied by the automatic projector, loaned by the Knapps, which was kept in constant operation, displaying our collection of color slides, for the entertainment and instruction of the visitors.

There were several easy chairs in each booth, where the weary could get a few minutes of often much needed rest. Here is a short, incomplete and somewhat rambling description of the show.

FLOWER AND PATIO SHOW,
"The Biggest Bloomin' Show of the Year."
Sponsored by the Indianapolis Star

In co-operation with the Allied Florists of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Landscape Association.

Manufacturers' Building, — State Fair Grounds,

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA,
March 8-13, 1960; 1 to 10:30 p.m.
each day

In spite of raging snow storms,

high winds and icy highways and streets, the show opened on time, with practically every garden finished, every booth decorated and manned, but with scant attendance the first two days, when the storms let up and the crowds came flocking in literally "bumper to bumper" making the going far more difficult inside than out.

The entire central part of the building was taken up by about 20 gardens, two floral arrangement areas and patio scenes.

On all four sides of this central area there were about 200 individual booths, all told, that were either rented or, in a few cases, donated, to those who wished to display their wares for sale or just display. Practically every kind of plant, root, bulb, corm, tool, fertilizer, a visitor would need, was for sale, including complete patios, and many kinds of garden furniture and ornaments. Many of the plants and shrubs were in full bloom, ready for immediate display in the garden, when the winter decided to allow outdoor planting. All the booths visited by me and they were many, were manned by attendants who were friendly, courteous and in the case of the women often of exceptional beauty. (No attention was paid to the men.)

Those who wished to eat, were quickly, efficiently and courteously served in the large lunch room and the several hot dog, ice cream and soft drink stands.

We do not recall seeing any other national flower society represented except ours. But many local societies were represented. Among them were the Indiana State African Violet Society with fifty or more varieties in full bloom, the Indiana Orchid Society with blooming plants, the Indianapolis Dahlia Society; the

Indianapolis Hemerocallis and Iris Society, the Indianapolis Rose Society and the Horticultural Department of Purdue University which had pictured by plants the process of hybridizing roses. Many local firms had blooming plants and shrubs for sale as well as dormant bulbs, corms, roots etc. Those who had flowers or plants or bulbs for sale that could be planted immediately, did a land office business, the others little.

To illustrate the planting of a peony root, the Sundown Gardens had a root planted in an aquarium, against one side, which showed the exact depth and the operation of planting. There were also several roots of varying sizes on display.

I did not have the time or take it, to inspect leisurely the many gardens occupying the central pit area. But those I did see were well planned and the results good. Especially beautiful to me was the all white garden, teeming with white flowers of many kinds in full bloom. In the rose garden there were roses of every kind and description in flower. The Brazilian Fantasy, an orchid garden staged by the Neill Greenhouses Incorporated situated next door to the Sundown Gardens near Carmel and through whose courtesy Mrs. Knapp was able to have the peony plants forced into bloom, was filled with blooming orchids of many kinds, some of the hybrids being exceedingly scarce. It was a beautiful sight. One of the gardens had two live peacocks as an added attraction. In the Japanese Influenced garden designed by that eminent landscape artist, Frits Loonsten, a Hollander who has served the Indianapolis area for a quarter of a century and who is a most affable and pleasant person to meet, the

traditional Japanese family tea rite was performed twice each day by Mrs. Chiko Campbell of Indianapolis and Mrs. Tusugiko Ross of Alexandria, Indiana, sometimes with the appearance of Mrs. Ross's two children, Debbie 3, and Ronnie 1.

On Friday morning the Knapps were able to bring into the show three more peonies in bloom. They were placed between their counter and the Society's tables and, being quite conspicuous there, they attracted a great deal of attention. Of the several thousand, who stopped to admire them, a large number stooped to smell them. we are afraid with some disappointment, though many professed to find a faint, pleasant fragrance in the blooms of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Having given above a faint idea to our readers of what the show consisted, I shall return again to my trek and more personal matters.

While at the show, whenever opportunity offered, I visited the neighboring booths and so met many friendly and attractive people. It will be hard to forget Miss Sue Drury, whose beauty and charm are rarely equalled and, who with two other sirens, whose names I did not get, dispensed carnation corsages. And there was Mrs. Roger B. Steen (Martha), a dark haired girl from Louisiana, who fully upheld that State's reputation for producing beautiful and alluring women and who, I am sure, together with her several other attractive assistants, did not cause a drop in the sales of the hammocks and garden chairs, when occupied by them. And there was the lively 18 year old, who often appeared in booth 20, and—well, there were many others, charming and attractive, whose

names I do not know, but who always had a friendly smile and greeting whenever I passed their way.

Many friends visited us at the booth, especially after they saw the picture of Dorothy and myself admiring the bloom of Miss America in the Friday morning Star for, wherever I went, I was greeted by friend and stranger alike: "I saw your picture in the paper." Mrs. Virginia Petty and her husband came to greet me, she being from Orange, Virginia. Also Mrs. Josephine di Pollina King, who came because she thought I could give her some news of her childhood neighbors. Dr. A. P. Saunders and family of Clinton, New York. Mr. Nehrling, nephew, I believe, of Mr. Arno Nehrling of Boston, dropped by to say "Hello". Mrs. F. W. McClintock of Anderson, Indiana, came to renew an acquaintance made on a train some years ago. It was a pleasure to again shake the hand of Mr. Floyd Bass and his two sons, Floyd, Jr., and Richard. Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Johnson of Liberty, Indiana, came at the request of Mrs. John M. Johnson, a friend of long standing. Mr. Johnson now owns the peony garden of the late John M. Johnson.

Art Murawska, in his usual gay and happy mood when he attends these shows, visited us on Thursday and, when we were partaking of the evening meal in the lunch room, made quite an impression on one of the waitresses, by the recitation of his woes and the lack of a woman to share them. The final result — only the future can tell.

On Saturday morning Pharon Denlinger and his wife, Clara, joined us and helped out with the duties in the booth. Due to the convincing sales talks given by

him and Earl Knapp, our sales of handbooks picked up many fold in the last two days of the show.

We remember with a great deal of pleasure our several talks with Mr. and Mrs. (Tusugiko) Ross. The moments of conversation with that delightful lady who manned the Information Center, Mrs. Lowell (Hope) Parker, will often be remembered with pleasure. And we owe Danny, (Daniel W. Sprehn) the genial doorman, a great debt of gratitude for his always cheerful greetings each morning and his solicitude for my safety when crossing the icy entrance to the building. Nor do we forget the friendliness of the doormen who took care of the main entrance.

On Sunday morning the Denlingers, who had spent the night in a nearby motel, came to the Knapps for a 9:30 breakfast, after which we went to the show for the final session. On arrival we found that Judge and Mrs. Ober had already arrived bringing with them Mr. and Mrs. Parsons, the parents of Mrs. Ober, whom I had never met before. On meeting Mrs. Parsons, it was easy to see from whom her daughter inherited her charm and attractiveness.

Soon after lunch, as leaving time was fast approaching, I went around and bade as many of my new found friends as I could find, farewell and when the hour of four arrived, I turned the booth over to the capable hands of Mary Helen and left with the Denlingers for their home in Dayton, where I was to spend the next three days. We arrived just before dark and after dinner and the making of several necessary phone calls, we just talked until it was time for us to retire, as a busy day awaited all of us on the morrow.

As Clara had to leave early Monday morning for her job and would be gone all day Pharon took over the job of cook. Though his culinary efforts may be somewhat limited in scope, I did not find them so, yet we fared well, especially on the good county sausage he had on hand.

Soon after breakfast, Pharon found he had on his hands one of these now or never real estate deals so being the good seller he is, he went after it with vim and vigor, but it took all the fine sales talks he possessed, to finally convince the young couple that his house was the only house they should consider. This he finally did about midnight, meanwhile having driven the couple over the greater part of Dayton out that way and also having had to serve them a delicious steak dinner, which Clara cooked.

My time was fully occupied by writing some necessary letters and packing up some books to fill an order and sending some material to be displayed and distributed at the coming Chicago show. This was interrupted by a short trip to Clara's office to find out why she did not answer her phone. When we arrived and stated the case, she suddenly remembered that no incoming calls had been received all morning, the cause, discovered by the repair man, some one had disconnected the bell.

On Tuesday morning the 15th, we left Dayton for Van Wert, Ohio, where Mr. Alexander, Mr. Denlinger and I had a scheduled meeting with those who have the coming annual meeting and show in charge. The day was clear and the highways free of snow, so traveling was good and Dennie let his Buick show its paces.

On arrival in Van Wert, we went to see the Armory, where the ex-

hibition is to be staged. From our observation, it seems to be an excellent place for the show. From there we went to a good restaurant, where we were to meet Mr. Alexander. We were cordially greeted by the management and assigned a front seat, where Mr. Alexander soon joined us.

After an excellent lunch, we visited the American Legion Hall, where the banquet will be held, and were shown the excellent accommodations, for taking good care of any sized meeting and banquet we may have. Then we had a four hour session with the local show management, (about 22 were present), held in the YMCA Building. It is not necessary to go into the details of this meeting here. We shall say that under the leadership of the General Chairman, Mr. Werner L. Becher, everything seems to be progressing satisfactorily. Each Chairman made a report of the progress that had been made by his or her committee and each report was thoroughly discussed and whatever information they wished, was given, as far as it could be at this time. We feel confident that these good people of Van Wert and its vicinity, will do their utmost to make this coming exhibition and meeting the great success it can be. It is now up to the members of the American Peony Society, individually and collectively, to do their part.

As the time was short for Dennie to clinch that real estate deal, and the road good, the Buick took us back to Dayton at the legal limit, ninety miles, ninety minutes.

After a good dinner, which Clara had ready on our arrival, Pharon went to complete that real estate deal and the other two of us went over for an evening with t¹

younger daughter of the family, Sharon Ann, and her husband. The son-in-law showed us his collection of color slides of peonies and we were especially impressed with the excellent detail and trueness of color of the red flowers that he had among the others. It was a pleasure to renew my acquaintance with Sharon Ann whom I had met before at Lake Mohawk and Kansas City. On return to our abode we found Dennie rejoicing over the successful completion of his business of the evening and ready for another try.

Wednesday morning dawned rather bleak and dismal outside, so we had an eleven o'clock brunch instead of an eight o'clock breakfast, after which Pharon and I went to see his parents, who live several miles out of Dayton. We enjoyed an hour with these "real people" and en route back we stopped for another pleasant hour with the older daughter, Phyllis Jean, whom it had not been my good fortune to meet before, though I had met her husband, who operates the business formerly headed by Pharon himself.

Soon after returning to "5362" it was time to head for the station so we had an afternoon lunch and then left for town, but not before inspecting the guest cabin or showroom, whichever use it may be put to, and also the cold storage plant where several thousand dozen peonies can be taken care of.

The Baltimore and Ohio's Cincinnati was my transportation from Dayton to Cincinnati, a train which first ran from Baltimore to Cincinnati in daylight and then transferred to the Detroit-Cincinnati run with the substitution of two diesels for the beautiful steam engine which formerly powered it and the addition of a

number of headend cars which were never allowed to mar its beauty on its first assignment.

Arriving on time in Cincinnati I quickly transferred to the waiting George Washington of the C. & O. I was greeted by the Pullman conductor with a cherry "Roomette No. 7 coming out, bedroom going back." What marvelous memories for faces these men have!

When I left Dayton it had snowed first, then sleeted and finally rained nearly all day, with three or four inches of snow still on the ground. There were only a few patches of snow in sheltered spots at Cincinnati, but as we came on east, these increased until again the ground was covered. This lasted all through the mountains and when I awoke about an hour's run from home, the ground was covered with a heavy coating and the trees heavily laden with a covering of some foot or more of new fallen snow. So I began to wonder what getting home would be like.

I arrived at Orange about six thirty A. M. and was met at the car by a friendly colored man and immediately he took possession of my baggage and myself and piloted me to his waiting taxi for the seven mile drive to Windy Hill. Fortunately he had chains on his car and the highway had been scraped after the night's fall of snow, so we made good progress until we reached my road which the scraper had not touched and only one vehicle had navigated since the snow, so we had to plow through the snow as best we could. My drive, the first one, was blocked by deep drifts, the next door neighbor's also, with a stranded car added, but a car had left faint marks up the third one, so we went in and finally reached the house. From there my good

Samaritan led the way with me literally hanging on his coat tails, through twelve inches of new fallen snow, underlaid by six inches of partially frozen slush. When we reached my next door neighbor's, I just quit and went in. They had just arisen, but soon we had a good hot breakfast in front of a blazing open fire. Soon after breakfast a good neighbor sent her man over and he plowed out the road to my house, so I finally reached my destination none the worse for wear.

Once more I am home again with a stack of letters waiting to be answered, a bulletin to be gotten out, a form 990 to be made out for the IRS, a store of pleasant memories of old friendships renewed, new ones formed, of friendly and helpful railway men, and of all connected with the Indianapolis show and the coming one in Van Wert. I shall not attempt to express my great gratitude to my hosts for their unvarying hospitality and affection, that will be done more personally. So I hope I can truthfully say: Operations-Indianapolis and Van Wert, successfully accomplished.

The five plants that were in bloom in time to show at Indianapolis, were: Golden Glow 1; Miss America 3; Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt 4; Kansas 3 and 1 bud; Black Monarch 1 and 2 buds., the number after each variety signifies the number of blooms open when shown.

As the plants had to be forced rapidly, the blooms were small, though good in color and form.

If we can secure them, we also wish to public accounts of other early shows in which peonies were featured. If any of our members attended such shows, we shall welcome accounts of their visits to them.

ATTENTION! MEMBERS

As all of you, either now know or will know when you get this Bulletin, our next meeting and exhibition will be held in Van Wert, Ohio, in connection with the greatest Peony Festival in this country, which rivals the Rose Festival in Pasadena, California, in size and beauty. The dates are: Meeting, June 10; Exhibition, June 10-11; Festival, June 11.

The people of Van Wert are doing and will continue to do all within their power to make this combined event a great success. They have secured an excellent place in which to hold the exhibition, the Armory. The meeting will be held in the American Legion Hall, in a room large enough to accommodate any meeting we may have. The banquet room will seat, comfortably, over three hundred people. The culinary facilities are ample. The Festival will be in the great outdoors. The entertainment planned, will be unique and of the best. It is up to our membership to attend, exhibit and so do their part to make this one of the greatest and finest meetings and exhibitions we have ever held. For many years none of our shows have been held in a place so easily and conveniently reached by the majority of our members as Van Wert.

There are about fifteen commercial growers within two or three hours traveling time of it and that number is easily doubled by those who live within 300 miles of it. Over half of our amateur membership live within these limits.

The dates are such that, if all exhibit who can and should, we would have every class in the show filled to overflowing. Tree peonies and hybrids can be shown by those to the North and all others by those to the South and

immediately around the city, and further away in the same latitude.

The demand for peonies for cut flowers will be practically ended except for some local orders. so few commercial growers can excuse themselves on that score. Some will say they have to stay home to look after their root sales, and to show visitors around. Don't you have some trusted employees or friends who will be able to take over for the few hours you will be away? Remember your business is built on the fact that the varieties which make up the greater part of your sales are those that won their reputation on the show table and that these shows were reported in the newspapers and magazines, so you owe it to the public to come and show them what you have. Many visitors come miles to these shows to see these commercial exhibits and are greatly disappointed when they find them lacking. Do not let that happen this time.

Classes have been provided in the schedule to fit every need. Even those who have only one or two peonies will find a class in which they may enter them. The number of blooms required in each class has been reduced so that all can enter some class. The showing of only twenty-five different varieties, one bloom each, is now required for the Gold Medal Class. The number in the Silver Medal Class is fifteen and in the Bronze Medal Class, five. Let us have some real competition in these classes and not let the medal be handed out on a silver platter to the one exhibitor who entered his blooms in these classes. We need competition. Let's have it. The Charles F. Wassenberg Trophy to be awarded the Best Flower in the Show is a fine piece of silverware and one that will be both useful and ornamental.

Try your hand at raising a bloom that will have a chance to win it. You may be the lucky one.

Let me again urge everyone who possibly can do so, to come to this show. Bring your flowers if you can. If it is impossible for you to do this, bring yourself, family and friends. Spread the news of it everywhere and in every way you can. And do not forget that the Peony Festival Parade will be held from 1 to 4 P. M. on the 11th, during which hours the show will be closed. It will be held again that evening, after the final closing of the show, so all will be given the opportunity to view one of the finest sights they will ever see.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL PEONY SHOW, Peony Unit of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, May 7-8, 1960.

FORTY FIRST ANNUAL PEONY SHOW-GARDEN FLOWERS, Minnesota Peony and Iris Society, June 20-21, 1960, Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Due to the season, those wishing to attend the above shows, should verify the dates as they may have to be changed.

Our entire supply of the Tree Peony Monograph was sold out early in the year. We have several orders for it which we could not fill. If any have copies of this they would sell, please let us know, stating price. Also if any have copies of the Peony Manual, PEONIES, published by the Society in 1928, please advise, giving price. We also have inquiries for The Book of the Peony by Mrs. Edward Harding, published in 1917. Who has one for sale?

Inquiries continually come in for back numbers of our Bulletin we cannot supply. Who has any published before 1945? Also we need No. 109, June 1948.

Tree Peonies . . . Varieties and Culture

by Marinus Vander Pol

The Tree Peony, a shrub or small tree is considered a hardy Oriental plant, which usually flowers from early May well into June. It appears under several names including *Paeonia moutan*, *lutea*, *potanini*, *Delavayi* and others. These plants were discovered in the Southern Himalaya Mountains and in the several provinces of China including: Yunnan, Kansu, Szechwah, Shensi and it is also reported to grow in Manchuria and northern Korea.

The Tree Peony is found native at high elevations which would indicate that it requires a well-drained location to grow well. Historically it is one of the oldest deciduous shrubs known. When first reported in the sixth century it was not only known for its ornamental values, but also for its medicinal values. The plant is also closely associated with the Buddhist religion. It is held by them, the Buddhists, as Sacred Emblem of the Land Beyond, even the careless discard of a smoke on the growing grounds of the Tree Peony is sacrilegious. At Hasa Dera Temple, the roots of the Tree Peony have been brewed and the results in Japan distributed to some 3,000 Buddhist Units for healing purposes, for some 400 years, although this work has now ceased according to reports received. At Hasa Dera some 1200 plants in 300 varieties have been developed with no benefits of planning, crossing or hybridizing. It is assumed that with a chromosome system of 5, the Tree Peony is self-improving over the years, thus through selection finer qualities are continually detected and by selection used for con-

tinued improvement. It appears that through this method a number of devoted persons in the Orient and particularly in Japan have been able to introduce improvements over older varieties. Today there are some 1200 named varieties known. There is in the field considerable misunderstanding both here and in the Orient. Fortunately some effort is being made to bring the interested parties together, therefore considerable improvement in nomenclature of the Tree Peony can be expected soon.

Propagation of this plant is carried on by means of grafting, seed, and divisions, both in the United States and the Orient. Grafting is by far the most popular method. The root stock used is invariably the herbaceous or albiflora types. The moutan roots offer a possibility of a more responsive plant. Seedling grown plants are by far the safest type, they are, however, not necessarily the most desirable as they are unpredictable in growth habit and flower production until they have attained the age and size of expression. Commercially they are of very dubious value. Grafting of these plants is usually done at the time that the plant has reached growth maturity and at which time roots may be taken from other plants without loss. In Japan the whole operation is carried out in the open, with the taken grafts planted out in the field rows in early October. Growers in the States are less set on exact dates for grafting. We have several growers who do their grafting early in September, heel in under glass for 4 to 6 weeks,

after which time these taken grafts are potted. The selected roots are necessarily short to fit into the clay pots, such plants do not develop as quickly and as strongly when compared with full root field grown plants. Either method has its grafting losses and no perfection of graft stands have yet been observed anywhere. Division of plants is, of course, the very slow increase method, it is, however, the surest to obtain 100% stands.

Potted plants in bud and bloom are very desirable merchandise. We have been working on these ideas for several years, and have learned that the Tree Peony can be grown for a maximum of two years in a container without constant care. Plastic and other non-porous containers cannot be used except with extra care. The old standby clay pot also produced satisfactory results. A one year old graft (full root) potted in late fall grows into an excellent plant by the following September, setting buds and can be moved into a new permanent location with no loss of vitality; over 90% of these plants produce from one to three full size blooms. The potting media should be gritty and heavily fortified with phosphates. The plants after potting should be buried at least 4 inches below the graft, the top two inches can be sharp sand which provides excellent mulch to prevent weed growth and appears neat and clean at the surface. A two year old potgrown plant is excellent material for the development of tree peony gardens on private grounds as well as in public parks.

Later plants, which are invariably older plants have been used to create immediate effects. These plants, carefully dug and balled

protected with burlap, have responded splendidly on occasion, however the dry root stock requires extra time to become established unless much of the top-growth is removed. When the top-growth is severely cut back, the bare root older plants do respond very satisfactorily. Fall planting of bare-root plants has produced spectacular effects immediately, flowering surprisingly well, producing full sized blooms perfect in every detail. These plants then would be considerably a head three years hence over their non-cutback counterparts.

Preferred varieties of the best varieties are listed, these, however, are usually a particular person's interpretation. Experience with the Tree Peony and the particular application of the plant determines in my opinion just which is best or preferred. Some grow tall, others short, some have 12 to 15 inch flowers, while others are 4 to 6 inches. Most of the luteas or yellow sorts are sparse flowering, while many Japanese varieties are free flowering. The following I consider among the better varieties: Akashi-gata, Beni-chidori, Fusa-no-tsukasa, Gessekai, Hakuo-jishi, Haru-no-akebono, Hatsu-hinodi, Hinodisekai, Hodai, Howzan, Kagurajishi, Mono-yama, Nissho, Okinajishi, Renkaku, Reine Elizabeth, Shin-kagura, Taisho-no-hokori, Tama-fuyo, Ubatama, Yachio-tsubaki, Yae-zakura and many other fine varieties, to grow, to force and to love.

The above is a paper presented by Mr. Vander Pol at the Eighth Annual Short Course, Connecticut Nurserymen's Association At Storrs, Connecticut on 1/20/1960

STERLING FOREST GARDENS

We have lately had our first news of these gardens from Edward Gottlieb & Associates Ltd., 640 Fifth Avenue, New York 19, N.Y.

The Gardens will cover 125 acres in Sterling Forest, a 30 square mile area which is being established 35 miles north of New York City, near Tuxedo, New York. They have been under development for over a year and a half now. A large force of men have been clearing and preparing the grounds for the extensive plantings planned for all kinds of flowers and shrubs. When completed there will be a continuous blooming season for the whole year. Already 1,500,000 Dutch bulbs, (tulips, narcissus, hyacinths) have been planted, which should begin the show in 1960.

The first planting of tulips was made on Sept. 17, 1959, by Her Royal Highness, Princess Beatrix, heir presumptive to the throne of the Netherlands.

Features to be developed for the public comfort are a specially designed restaurant and a number of gazebos and summer houses scattered throughout the grounds. There will be a playground for children where they may be left under expert supervision, while their parents tour the gardens.

The horticulturists in charge travelled over 10,000 miles this year, selecting material for the plantings.

The garden is on historic ground. It was settled by the Dutch early in American history. George Washington moved his army along its trails during the Revolutionary War. There was once an iron mine and foundry on the place from which was forged the chain that was stretched across the Hudson during the War

of 1812 and which kept the British fleet from going up the river.

It is up to the directors and members of this Society who live nearby, to find out what part, if any, the Peony will play in the development of this garden.

Vander Pol Receives Important Show Premium

Marinus Vander Pol of 757 Washington Street, Fairhaven, has been awarded the Albert C. Burrage gold vase by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The award is the most important flower show premium of the society in the year 1959, and America's most coveted flower show trophy.

A letter from Arno H. Nehrling, executive secretary of the society, informing Mr. Vander Pol of the honor, said that "In the opinion of the board, no finer tree peonies have ever been exhibited at Horticultural Hall. The background for the perfectly grown plants was also acclaimed as being most outstanding."

Mr. Vander Pol's Japanese garden, featuring tree peonies, which won first prize at last year's Spring flower show in Boston, also won for him the Bulkley Medal of the Garden Club of America. He has twice received (in 1957 and 1958) the meritorius award for horticultural perfection of plant material (tree peonies), also the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's gold medal for the most educational exhibit of 1958.

Due to lack of space, we have not printed all the matter we had intended to have in this issue. It will be held for the June issue, which we hope to mail in May .

Massachusetts Horticultural Society

HORTICULTURAL HALL, 300 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

January 19, 1960

Mr. George W. Peyton
Rapidan
Virginia

Dear Mr. Peyton:

It becomes my pleasure and privilege, as Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, to inform you of a great honor that has come to you. At a meeting of our Board of Trustees held on January 11, you were awarded the Large Gold Medal of this Society.

The report of the Committee recommending the awards reads as follows:

To George W. Peyton of Rapidan, Virginia; without any doubt, or challenge, the greatest living authority on herbaceous peonies, as well as being a living encyclopedia on most any horticultural subject, his interests having been legion, and his contacts many and far-flung. He is a man of great stature in the peony world, no one greater.

May I, in closing, extend to you the very best wishes of the Officers and Trustees of the Society, as well as my personal congratulations on this well deserved recognition that has come to you.

Very sincerely yours,

Arno H. Nehrling
Executive Secretary

AHN/AR

SECRETARY'S NOTES

We omitted the list of Most Popular Peonies—1959 because of lack of space. A loose copy of it is enclosed. There will be more about it in the June issue.

As this is being written, March 31, the snow has just disappeared from our garden. Peonies are coming fast now. The season will probably be somewhat later than usual here and, we think, almost everywhere. As there seems to have been an abundance of moisture, the season should be a good one.

We have just had a note from Mr. Lindgren telling us of the death of Mr. William Anderson who has been a life member for many years. He has been an inmate of the Willmar (Minnesota) Nursing Home for several years. He was an ardent lover of peonies to the end.

We have just received an account

of the Chicago Spring Show from Mr. Tikalsky, which will be in the June Bulletin.

If any of our members has an outstanding bloom in his garden this year, please send us a good black and white picture of it, especially if it is a variety which is new and not familiar to the usual member. BUT, please remember the details of the flower itself must be good. If they are not, the picture cannot be reproduced effectively. We also can use 35 mm. color slides of new varieties and of Japanese types. If a label with the name written distinctly in black is placed just under the bloom, it helps a great deal in showing the picture.

Do not send pictures of unnamed varieties. We cannot use them.

While any size picture can be used, yet a 4"x5" or similar size is best.

◀54486



LITTLE MISS SARAH JONES, a future candidate for the title of Van Wert Peony Festival Queen Jubilee, is shown looking over some blooms of the variety Jubilee growing in the Brumback Library grounds. She is the daughter of Van Wert High School Band director, Herbert Jones.

THE SPRING FLOWER SHOWS

The Second Annual Chicago World Flower and Garden Show was held from March 19th through the 27th. We shall publish a more complete account of it in the June Bulletin. Our Society was represented by a booth shared with the American Iris and Hemerocallis Societies.

Charles Klehm and Son had a large garden approximately 25 feet wide by 100 feet long, beautifully landscaped, and filled with many blooming shrubs and plants among which were about 100 peonies in bloom. Attendance was estimated at 173,000.

A report from New York tells us that no peonies were shown in that show this year.

We have not yet received any report of other shows. The June Bulletin will contain accounts of those reported to us.

GLENN GREAVES AWARD

Mr. Greaves was awarded the highest honor of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society for 1959, the Bronze Medal for his work in advancing interest in horticulture in his state.

This medal is awarded each year to one person in the State of Minnesota.

BOSTON
SPRING FLOWER SHOW
Mr. Nehrling of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society has sent us pictures of the three gardens that featured tree peonies this year.

First Prize and Silver Medal Winner was Marinus Vander Pol of Fairhaven, Mass. Winner of the John S. Ames Cup for the exhibit in the garden club section, displaying the greatest horticultural excel-

lence, The Chestnut Hill Garden Club with a white and pink May garden, featuring some especially fine tree peonies. First Prize and Gold Medal Winner, the Cape Cod Branch of the National Association of Gardeners who created a lovely spring garden with gay plantings of peonies, foxgloves, hybrid lilies, columbines, pinks, candytuft and other late spring and early summer flowers. Le Jour was the peony used.

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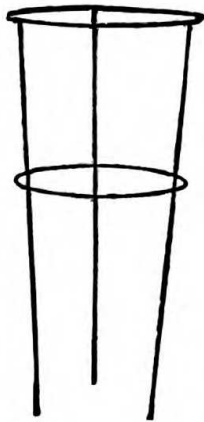
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